

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. GENERAL INFORMATION.....	3
A. REGIONS	
B. AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS	
II. GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.....	4
A. MISCELLANEOUS	
B. ANNUAL CONVENTION	
C. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	
D. WAIVER OF LIABILITY	
III. FINANCIAL .....	9
A. GENERAL	
B. INVESTMENT FUND	
C. REFUNDS	
D. REGIONS	
E. GRANTS AND PROGRAMS	
F. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	
G. REIMBURSEMENT	
H. REGIONAL FEES CHARGED AT USDF/USEF COMPETITIONS	
I. SOLICITATION OF FUNDS BY REGIONS, COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES	
IV. MEMBERSHIP.....	16
A. GROUP MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUP MEMBERS	
B. PARTICIPATING MEMBERS	
C. BUSINESS MEMBERS	
D. INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS	
E. INTERCOLLEGIATE/INTERSCHOLASTIC MEMBERSHIP	
F. MEMBERSHIP POLICIES	
V. HORSE REGISTRATIONS.....	21
VI. COMPETITIONS.....	24
A. USEF – LICENSING/USDF – RECOGNITION	
B. USEF/USDF RECOGNIZED COMPETITION REPORTING	
C. USDF REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	
D. USDF BREEDERS’ CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES	
E. SPECIAL USDF CLASSES, TESTS AND GUIDELINES	
F. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR USDF-RECOGNIZED COMPETITIONS	
G. AFFIDAVITS	
H. USDF COMPETITION FEE AND PENALTY STRUCTURE	
I. AWARDS	
VII. EXECUTIVE BOARD.....	35
A. DUTIES	
B. PROPOSALS	
C. GUIDELINES FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS	
D. MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATION	
E. REIMBURSEMENT	
F. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	
G. REGIONAL DIRECTORS	
H. MISCELLANEOUS	

VIII. COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES.....39  
A. DUTIES  
B. GENERAL COUNCIL/COMMITTEE POLICIES  
C. MEETINGS  
D. LIST OF COUNCILS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

IX. PROGRAMS.....44  
A. PARTICIPATION  
B. REQUIREMENTS  
C. LIST OF USDF PROGRAMS  
D. USDF EXECUTIVE BOARD POLICY ON PROGRAM PROPOSALS

X. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS.....47  
A. NOMINATIONS  
B. ELECTIONS

XI. MARKETING.....50  
A. GENERAL  
B. SPONSORSHIP  
C. PUBLICATIONS  
D. LIST RENTAL POLICY  
E. ADVERTISING POLICY  
F. COPYRIGHT PROCEDURES  
G. PROCEDURE FOR VIDEO/ELECTRONIC IMAGING PROJECTS  
H. LICENSING AND BRANDING OF PRODUCTS

XII. DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION .....54

XIII. CODE OF ETHICS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY .....55

XIV. USDF YOUTH EXECUTIVE BOARD BYLAWS ..... 60

XV. USDF STATEMENT ON ANIMAL WELFARE .....65

XVI. USDF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE.....66

# **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

## **I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **A. REGIONS**

1. The United States is comprised of nine United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Regions.
  - a. Region 1  
Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Eastern West Virginia (Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson Counties)
  - b. Region 2  
Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia (except Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson Counties), Wisconsin
  - c. Region 3  
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee
  - d. Region 4  
Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
  - e. Region 5  
Arizona, Colorado, East Montana (zip codes of 59000 to 59399 and 59500 to 59599), New Mexico, West Texas (zip codes of 79800-99999), Utah, Wyoming
  - f. Region 6  
Alaska, Idaho, West Montana (zip codes of 00000 to 58999, 59400 to 59499, and 59600 to 59999), Oregon, Washington
  - g. Region 7  
California, Hawaii, Nevada
  - h. Region 8  
Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont
  - i. Region 9  
Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas (ex. West Texas) (zip codes of 80000 - 99999)

### **B. AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

1. USDF shall maintain an “Affiliated Association” membership with the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc., (USEF). USEF is recognized by USEF as the “International Discipline Association” or “FEI Affiliate” organization representing the discipline of dressage in the United States. The USDF Executive Board (EB) shall coordinate with USEF to ensure compliance by USDF with USEF rules and requirements for its FEI affiliates, including the following responsibilities:
  - a. Comply with and be bound by the USEF Bylaws and Rules, and decisions of USEF, including those of its Hearing Committee. (See USEF Bylaw 222, Section 1);
  - b. Pay annual fees and/or dues as provided in the USEF Federation’s Rules;
  - c. Elect two USDF member representatives to the USEF Board of Directors on the timetable established by USEF. USDF shall publish annually to its membership, and provide a copy to USEF, its election procedures for its representative(s) to the USEF Board of Directors. (See USEF Bylaw 303, Section 3);
    - i. USDF Executive Board Management Committee will nominate individuals for election by the EB.
    - ii. USDF representatives will be elected by a majority vote of the organization's EB.

- iii. Only USDF Participating Members (PMs) in good standing are eligible for nomination.
  - iv. Nominees are not required to be members of the EB.
  - v. Representatives will not receive reimbursement for expenses related to attending USEF meetings.
  - vi. Representatives should agree to attend USEF meetings and conference calls.
  - vii. Representatives must support the position of the EB to USEF and report back to the board.
- d. Be represented on the FEI Affiliates Working Group by the members elected by USDF to serve on the USEF Board of Directors. (See USEF Bylaw 311, Section 2);
  - e. Appoint 60 percent of the USEF Dressage Committee, which is the Breed/Discipline Division Committee for Dressage, on the timetable established by USEF. (See USEF Bylaw 503, Section 1);
  - f. Submit to USEF copies, and updates as necessary, of USDF's organic governance documents;
  - g. Comply with any other USEF requirements for recognized FEI Affiliate organizations.
2. USDF shall maintain membership in the American Horse Council.
  3. USDF shall maintain membership in the Animal Welfare Council.
  4. All references to "Corporation" in this document refer solely to the United States Dressage Federation, unless noted to apply to other companies or USEF affiliate organizations.

## **II. GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **A. MISCELLANEOUS**

1. The USDF Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement must be filled out by every EB Member, Audit Committee Member, other board-designated council or committee members, and staff who hold a director or liaison position. USDF "L" Faculty and Certification Examiners must sign the USDF Conflict of Interest Policy annually. The USDF Disclosure Statement shall be submitted annually and updated as often as necessary to USDF. Providing the information requested herein is prerequisite to participation by EB Members, Audit Committee Members, other board-designated council or committee members, and staff who hold a director or liaison position. Refusal to provide the requested information or providing incomplete or inaccurate information may result in sanctions by USDF. (See Bylaws Art. V, Sections 1 and 8)
2. Unless another procedure is in place for a particular program, all waivers for any USDF rule or requirement must be approved by the president.
3. Material created by an individual or individuals specifically for use by USDF or a USDF council or committee becomes the property of USDF unless a written agreement is executed between USDF and the individual(s) involved, prior to initiating development or creation of the materials, stating that the rights to the property are to be retained by one or more of the individuals named in the agreement.
4. Formal proposals to outside organizations, such as USEF and The Dressage Foundation, must be approved by the USDF President. Formal proposals for corporate sponsorship must be approved by the USDF Executive Director. When such communication is necessary, the president must appoint someone to communicate on behalf of a committee or council with persons or

organizations outside USDF (such as USEF, The Dressage Foundation), and the executive director may, at his/her discretion, appoint someone to communicate with corporate sponsors. Members may express unofficial opinions as long as they are clearly identified as personal opinions rather than official statements made on behalf of USDF or its committees or councils. (See Ch. XI. Marketing, Section B)

5. At the discretion of staff, a USDF staff member will be on call on weekends to answer questions regarding specified USDF programs or events.
6. USDF will not be held responsible for late, damaged or misdirected mail.
7. Test revisions and rule changes affecting tests or score sheets used in USEF licensed/USDF recognized competitions MUST follow the USEF test or rule change cycle (e.g. tests may change every four years to be effective on December 1, on the same cycle with USEF, and rules must normally have an effective date of December 1 ). Guidelines dealing with competition based programs or rules, such as USDF Musical Freestyle Rules and Guidelines, USDF Pas de Deux Rules and Guidelines, and Quadrille Rules and Guidelines should undergo revisions in conjunction with the USEF test or rule change cycle. Rules and tests must be published and available for distribution several weeks prior to the effective date.
8. USDF Freestyle and Pas de Deux score sheet revisions will be a project of the Freestyle Committee in cooperation with the Judges Committee. USDF Quadrille score sheet revisions will be a project of the Quadrille Subcommittee in cooperation with the Judges Committee.
9. Organizations and/or competition managers who are identified as copying USDF score sheets which are copyrighted should receive a letter informing them that it is a violation of USDF copyright. (See Ch. IX. Marketing, Section F)
10. Editorial messages in regional newsletters should not be changed, by members of the EB or members of USDF staff, unless the Management Committee and the executive director believe there may be a legal issue with the content.
11. Agreements or contracts between USDF and clinicians or presenters, hired to conduct USDF programs or events, will include a standard code of conduct statement.
12. An Editorial Board and an Advisory Committee for *USDF Connection* will be appointed and approved by the EB. It is the job of the Editorial Board to define a clear role for the publication's Advisory Committee.
13. Policy for submitting proposals to amend USDF Bylaws or USDF Policies:
  - a. The article, section and number of the section to be deleted, or proposed location of the text to be added, must be listed with each proposal.
  - b. Proposals should be shown in the order they appear in the document.
  - c. All proposed text to be deleted must be shown by "striking through" the words to be deleted.
  - d. All proposed text to be added must be shown in bold italics.
  - e. The reasons for proposed changes must be listed if not self-explanatory.
  - f. All proposed changes must be reported to the EB at its first meeting during the annual convention or during the USDF Spring Executive Board meeting.
  - g. Amendments to the proposed changes must be given to the EB at least twelve hours prior to the USDF Board of Governors meeting.
  - h. All proposals must include the proposed effective date of the changes.

- i. In order to assess the impact of proposals, the deadline to submit policy change proposals from staff and membership is **60 days** prior to the first day of the annual convention or spring Executive Board meeting. Bylaw change proposals should be submitted for review and formatting to both the Bylaws Committee and EB at least **60 days** prior to the annual convention.

14. Procedures for rule modifications or interpretations concerning participation in the North American Junior Championships or North American Young Riders' Championships:

Requests for rule modifications or interpretations may come from a regional director, a regional coordinator for the USDF FEI Junior/Young Rider Council, a parent of a young rider, a trainer of a young rider, or a young rider. A written request should be sent to the USDF FEI Junior/Young Rider Council liaison.

Step One. Upon receipt of a request for a rule modification or interpretation, the USDF FEI Junior/Young Rider Council liaison will inform the FEI Junior/Young Rider Council chair, the regional director, and the USEF Dressage Committee liaison. The USEF CEO in consultation with USEF legal counsel and international disciplines staff will decide whether the request will be handled by the USEF or by USDF.

If USEF will handle the request, proceed with Steps Two through Four. If USEF decides that USDF will handle the request, proceed with Steps Five through Eight for a USDF Presidential Modification.

**USEF Action/Responsibility**

Step Two. The USEF Dressage Committee liaison will request input from the USEF Secretary General, the USEF Assistant Executive Director of International Services, the USEF Dressage Committee, and the USEF legal counsel. If it is determined that the request requires a modification to the approved Selection Criteria, the request will be forwarded to the USEF Executive Committee for approval at their next scheduled meeting.

Step Three. The USEF Secretary General will inform the USDF Executive Director in writing of the decision, who will inform the USDF FEI Junior/Young Rider Council liaison.

Step Four. The USDF FEI Junior/Young Rider Council liaison will inform the following people of the decision: the USDF FEI Junior/Young Rider Council chair, the USDF EB, the regional coordinator, and the person who made the request.

**USDF Actions/Responsibility**

Step Five. The USDF FEI Junior/Young Rider Council liaison will contact the USDF President. If the president is unavailable after a reasonable period of time, the USDF FEI Junior/Young Rider Council liaison will contact the USDF Vice President.

Step Six. The USDF President may contact the USDF FEI Junior/Young Rider Council chair, the regional director, and/or the USDF EB for an opinion.

Step Seven. The USDF President will inform the USDF FEI Junior/Young Rider Council liaison of his/her decision.

Step Eight. The USDF FEI Junior/Young Rider Council liaison will inform the following people of the decision: the USDF FEI Junior/Young Rider Council chair, the USDF EB, the regional coordinator, the USEF Secretary General, and the person who made the request.

Step Nine. If necessary, the decision of USDF will be subject to review and approval of the USEF Executive Committee.

## B. ANNUAL CONVENTION

1. *The Board of Governors (BOG) shall approve the minutes of the previous annual meeting of the BOG General Assembly as presented by the Secretary to the BOG at its annual meeting.*
2. The annual meetings of the membership and BOG shall be rotated between the West Coast (Pacific and Mountain Time Zones), Central United States (Central Time Zone), and the East Coast (Eastern and Atlantic Time Zones). Sites may be up to 150 miles beyond each time zone border.
3. As close to the week after Thanksgiving as possible is the established date for the annual meeting.
4. To encourage a large attendance, the EB has established the following parameters for selecting convention sites. The site must:
  - a. be located within the continental United States,
  - b. have a combined hotel and sales tax not to exceed fifteen percent,
  - c. have at least 150 airline flight arrivals per day,
  - d. have at least 900 members within 250 miles,
  - e. have a 45 minute or less drive from the airport to hotel,
  - f. be close to restaurants and shopping,
  - g. have space for at least 60-75 trade fair booths, and
  - h. have a sleeping room rate of less than \$130/night, if possible.
5. USDF will not provide meeting space at the annual convention for any organization with which we do not have a direct affiliation nor shall any of those organizations' meetings be part of USDF's publicized agenda.
6. USDF will schedule a council/committee chair orientation session at the beginning of each year's convention.
7. USDF will schedule a delegate orientation session each year at the annual convention to provide information to delegates on their responsibilities, BOG protocol and the voting process.
8. The Adult Education Council will provide a list of potential speakers for the annual convention's university sessions, to be approved by the EB, and the Instructor/Trainer Council will recommend symposium clinicians, to be approved by the EB. Recommendations should be sent to the EB for approval at the prior USDF Spring EB meeting for annual convention university sessions and at the prior annual convention for the symposium.
9. Only one closed educational activity for Certified Instructors/Trainers should be held during the annual meeting. If space or attendance is limited at any other meetings or activities for Certified Instructors/Trainers, regional directors shall be afforded the option of extending invitations to participants from their respective regions.

## C. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1. The USDF Web site is the official Web site for all USDF programs, councils and committees. No council, committee or other entity may establish another web site for official communications regarding USDF council/committee or program information, except that USDF regions may have their own web sites.
2. USDF will maintain generic e-mail addresses for EB members to be forwarded to their personal accounts, in order to provide a greater degree of confidentiality for personal e-mail addresses and to ensure that USDF-related e-mail is filtered through USDF anti-virus and spam filtering programs.

## D. WAIVER OF LIABILITY

With the exception of USEF licensed/USDF recognized competitions, USDF requires that a state-specific waiver of liability statement be included in all applications for a USDF organized or sanctioned event, as supplied in organizer guidelines or in applicable published forms. However, in states with no state-specific requirement, USDF requires that a standard waiver of liability statement be included.

## E. TRANSPARENCY POLICY

*It is the policy of the USDF that openness and transparency in the decision making process is to be followed by all its entities subject to the guidelines contained herein:*

1. ***Executive Board***
  - a) ***The President shall cause all materials presented to the Executive Board to be published on the USDF Web site except:***
    - i. ***Confidential personnel information;***
    - ii. ***Confidential financial information;***
    - iii. ***Privileged attorney work product or attorney client communications; or***
    - iv. ***Material the President specifies not be published provided a majority of the Executive Board must ratify this decision within 30 days of the president's specification or the information shall be published.***
  - b) ***Except as specified in (a) above, the President shall cause minutes of all meetings of the Executive Board to be published on the USDF Web site within 45 days of the meeting.***
2. ***Standing Committees and Councils***
  - a) ***The Chair of each Standing Committee or Council shall cause to be published on the USDF Website all those materials presented to the Committee or Council and such additional material as the Chair deems appropriate so that the Membership may fully understand the actions of the Committee or Council except:***
    - i. ***Confidential personnel information;***
    - ii. ***Confidential financial information;***
    - iii. ***Privileged attorney work product or attorney client communications; or***
    - iv. ***Material the Chair specifies not be published provided a majority of the members of the Standing Committee or Council must ratify this decision within 30 days of the president's specification or the information shall be published.***
  - b) ***Except as specified in (a) above, the Chair of each Standing Committee or Council shall cause minutes of all meetings of all Committee or Council minutes to be published on the USDF Website within 45 days of the meeting to be replaced by the final minutes as soon as practicable after approval by the Committee or Council.***

### **III. FINANCIAL**

#### **A. GENERAL**

1. The fiscal year of USDF shall be April 1 to March 31.
2. At the annual convention, the treasurer will present to the BOG an annual budget for operating expenses.
3. Contracts over \$7,500 must be approved, in advance, and signed by both the president and executive director. (See Ch. VII. Executive Board, Section B)
4. All payments for fees and services made to USDF must be in US Funds.
5. A finance charge of 1.5 percent per month will be assessed on open balances over 30 days.
6. Any member or non-member who has a past due financial obligation to USDF, according to the terms of USDF Policies and Procedures, and if such account has been sent to a collection agency for the collection of such fees, shall no longer be allowed to conduct business with USDF. Said person or organization will be allowed to resume the conduct of business with USDF upon the payment of all dues or any other financial obligations, including any and all applicable service charges and collection fees, and compliance with any other requirements necessitated by the non-performance. Prepayment of fees may be required by USDF in order for said person or organization to conduct future business with USDF, at the discretion of USDF.
7. Fees charged by USDF for programs, services and penalties must be approved by the EB.
8. Any competition-related payment must be accompanied by the USDF Report of Fees document that is included in the USDF competition packet for all USEF licensed/USDF recognized competitions. USDF prefers debit or credit card payment for faxed or electronic submission of competition results at the time of submission, but, in all cases, payment must be submitted (postmarked, faxed or sent electronically) within ten days of the last day of the dressage or dressage sport horse breeding (DSHB) competition (or received within five days of the last day of dressage or DSHB competition if the competition is held within the last two weeks of September, including the last two weekends). Results will not be entered until payment and all paperwork is received. Penalty fees will be assessed for late results and/or fees. (See Ch. VI. Competitions, Section H)
9. Requests for food or beverages to be provided during meetings at the USDF annual convention first must be approved by the USDF Executive Director. Meals or items of clothing are not eligible as budgetary items for councils and committees.
10. The USDF Investment Working Group provides guidance to the USDF investments account manager, in the management of USDF investments. Approval of this working group is required for the transfer of funds. The USDF Investment Working Group is made up of the USDF Treasurer, one current USDF PM who is not currently a member of the USDF EB or member of the USDF Audit Committee, director of finance and accounting (USDF office staff member), executive director and president.
11. The USDF investment representative will be present to provide an investment summary report at each EB meeting.

12. The Management Committee of the EB will manage the National Education Endowment Fund. (See Ch. VII. Executive Board, Section F.2)
13. Employees traveling on USDF business may request to carry a USDF credit card. The credit card may only be used for hotel room charges plus applicable hotel taxes, airfare, and transportation to and from the airports, car rental, meals and other pre-approved business expenses.
14. Travel and member expenses attributable to service to USDF are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Members should consult their personal tax advisors.
15. Any individual in arrears on fees or dues to USDF, its regions, or Group Member Organizations (GMOs) may not participate in USDF programs. USDF must be notified if an individual is in arrears to a region or GMO and will determine if the nature of the delinquency constitutes a violation of this policy. (See Ch. IX. Programs, Section A)

## **B. PRIVACY POLICY**

***Non-public information collected by USDF will be kept confidential. Access to all non-public information will be restricted to only those staff with a legitimate business purpose in order to perform their normal work duties and/or to provide necessary services to members, staff and those who conduct business with USDF.***

- ***USDF will take reasonable and appropriate measures to store non-public information, such as credit card information and social security numbers, in a secure and confidential environment.***
- ***When no longer required, non-public information will be destroyed in a secure manner.***

## **C. INVESTMENT FUND**

1. In the “unrestricted” portion of its investment portfolio, USDF shall maintain minimum equivalent of 25 percent or three months of the annual operating budget, and strive to build it to a 50 percent or six month level.
2. When the organization falls below the minimum three month/25 percent mark, active measures shall be taken to grow the fund back to the minimum three month/25 percent balance as quickly as possible, by including a cash contribution line item into the operating budget. The amount of that planned contribution is to be based on need and capability. The specific contribution amount is to be recommended by the Investment Working Group to the Executive Board in concert with the budget planning process for the upcoming fiscal year/s.
3. To build the fund to a six month/50 percent reserve, the source of funding will come primarily from unrestricted fund investment returns, which will be reinvested into the fund. During years when the organization ends its fiscal year in the black, and has excess P&L cash, additional contributions may be made to the fund.
4. Cash contributions as outlined in point 3) will be made only after a separate cash operating account is established that will replace the operating bank line of credit. The balance of the cash operating account shall be built to a minimum of \$250,000. In essence, this will allow USDF to borrow from itself, rather than from the bank, to smooth out annual operational cash flow needs. It will also serve as a short term source of any rainy day funding before using funds from the unrestricted portion of the investment portfolio.

5. The investment fund discussed in points 1-3 will remain unrestricted and by definition can be used for any purpose, as approved by the EB.

#### D. REFUNDS

1. Membership/horse registration refunds: The membership department coordinator must fill out either a credit or check request form with back-up paperwork attached, supporting the reason for the refund. Such requests require review and approval by the department supervisor.
2. Automatic refunds are payments generated automatically by the USDF Membership Department:
  - a. Youth Participating Memberships – if full payment for USDF Participating Membership (PM) is received, a refund of the difference from the \$35 youth membership fee is sent.
  - b. Lifetime Registration application submitted for a horse that is already Lifetime Registered to that owner (refund \$85).
  - c. Horse Identification Number (HID) application submitted for a horse that already has a HID to that owner (refund \$20).
  - d. Lifetime Registration application submitted for a horse that already has a HID to that owner (\$65 applied towards upgrade, refund \$20 overpay).
  - e. HID application is submitted for a horse that is already Lifetime Registered to that owner (refund \$20).
3. Requested refunds are refund payments specifically requested by the member:
  - a. A duplicate payment for a membership (This is only done if membership has not been processed, and only on a case by case basis, otherwise the membership is extended, with no refund).
  - b. Multiple GMO members may request a refund, declaring one GMO as their primary GMO. The request form is online and refunds are available from April 1 to August 1.
  - c. Other refund requests are handled on a case by case basis. An example of an exception would be a person who recently registered a horse and the horse suddenly died within days of the application. The department supervisor must authorize such exceptions.
4. Refund policy for USDF-organized educational programs:
  - a. For participants: All funds or payment to participate in a USDF program or event must be paid in full at the required time and date as noted on the registration information. All requests for refunds must be submitted to USDF in writing via mail, fax, or e-mail at least 24 hours prior to the program or event for which the participant is registered to attend. No request for refunds will be taken by phone. Prior to January 1, 2005, no refunds will be issued if requested after the program or event has occurred unless absence was due to a medical reason or emergency. Effective January 1, 2005: No refunds will be issued if requested after the program or event has occurred. USDF will retain a processing fee from the original payment to ensure all costs associated with participant's registration are covered. Refunds take four to six weeks to be processed and issued.
  - b. For riders: Riders who cancel after confirming their participation and sending payment to ride in a USDF event or program will receive a refund, minus a \$25 processing fee, only in the event a replacement rider can be found by USDF. Riders who must cancel due to medical or veterinary reasons may receive a refund if USDF is properly notified in writing, via mail, e-mail or fax, including veterinarian or physician statement. If no replacement is available, the rider will not receive a refund.
  - c. Tickets for food functions and pre-arranged transportation tickets are non-refundable.

5. Refund policy for USDF organized events:
  - a. For the USDF annual convention, USDF National Symposium, and USDF FEI and National-Level Trainers' Conferences: All requests for refunds must be received in the USDF office in writing no later than two weeks prior to the event. An administrative fee of \$25 will be deducted from the refund.
  - b. Tickets for food functions and pre-arranged transportation tickets are non-refundable.
6. USDF does not refund USDF Competition Affidavit fees.
7. For a Lifetime Registration application submitted for a horse that is already Lifetime Registered to another person, USDF instructs the new owner to complete the transfer process (\$25) and when transfer is completed the applicant is refunded \$60.
8. For a HID application submitted for a horse that already has a HID with another person, USDF instructs new owner to complete the transfer process (\$10) and when transfer is completed the applicant is refunded \$10.
9. For a Lifetime Registration application submitted for a horse that already has HID with another person, USDF instructs the new owner to complete the transfer of the HID (\$10) and then upgrade to Lifetime Registration (\$65). Once the transfer is complete, the owner is refunded \$10.
10. USDF does not refund USDF Regional Championship qualifying fees to competitors for any reason.
11. Overpayment of fees on the competition "Report of Fees" form up to \$25 will not be refunded, but will accrue to the accounting category to which it was applied. Overpayment of over \$25 will be automatically refunded to the competition. Exception: USDF Regional Championship Qualifying fees collected from competitors and submitted by competition management to USDF will not be refunded.
12. If a competition is cancelled for any reason, competition recognition fees will not be refunded; however, if USEF approval is not granted, USDF competition recognition fees will be refunded (including USDF Breeders' Championship Series (USDFBC) fees).
13. Once a competition has been licensed by USEF and recognized by USDF, there will be no refund of the USDFBC application fee, even if USDFBC classes are not held.

## **E. REGIONS**

1. Each region shall maintain a regional account with the USDF office. Signatures of the regional director, regional treasurer or program contact/coordinator and the executive director are required to withdraw funds. Funds in a regional account are interest-bearing.
2. In order to protect the tax deductibility to the donor, direct contributions to USDF to be used by the regions must be deposited to regional accounts.
3. Contributions from donors for specific regional purposes, such as regional championships, must also go directly into regional accounts and must be used as designated by the contributor within the IRS guidelines.
4. USDF activities sponsored by a region should have income and expenses funneled through the regional account, if at all possible.

5. It is recommended that regions develop a budget, long-term plan and goals for their regional accounts.
6. Regional directors will be eligible to receive a \$750 reimbursement for convention-related expenses starting with the 2004 annual convention, upon submission of the details of expenses incurred, including receipts when possible.

## **F. GRANTS AND PROGRAMS**

1. Fees or changes in fees, for organizing or attending USDF programs or events require approval of the USDF EB.
2. Any program or project proposal which comes before the EB or the BOG should have a business plan with revenues and expenses clearly included for implementation during the current budget process.
3. There may be a program registration fee for USDF programs held at the local level, which require USDF administrative assistance. Youth Regional Team Competitions are exempted. (See Ch. IX. Programs, Section A)
4. Payment is required in advance for participation in any USDF program or event in accordance with established program guidelines.
5. A financial grant should not be approved by USDF or its designated representative to fund a program or event that is intended to generate significant profit. However, events are not required to break even or lose money in order to receive USDF financial grants. This policy does not apply to USDF competition grants, such as USDF Regional Championships. Grant requests must be received by USDF within the same fiscal year of the event.
6. USDF will charge a \$50 declaration fee to Juniors and Young Riders declaring their intent to try out for their regional NAJC or NAYRC team.
7. USDF will oversee the Ruth Arvanette Memorial GMO Grant to help fund the attendance of Group Members (GMs) to the USDF Annual Convention. Criteria for the grant are published on the USDF Web site or may be requested from the USDF Membership Department.
8. Grant money will be paid to the organizer of a regional championship, one-third before the competition, after a signed contract has been received in the USDF office, and the remaining two-thirds post-competition, after all results have been submitted, banners and other materials have been returned, and all provisions of the contract have been met.
9. USDF will supply USDF banners to USDF Adult Regional Team Competitions, Youth Regional Team Competitions, USDF University sanctioned programs, and Certified Instructor Testings, only upon the request of the organizer. All banners must be returned by the organizer following the USDF sanctioned program. Failure to return all USDF banners within 30 days of the event will result in a \$100 replacement fee and the possible forfeiture of any available financial grant for that program.

## **G. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. USDF is required to pay prize money for USDF Regional Championships within 30 days after the last day of the show.
2. Prize money for USDF Regional Championships will be rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

3. The \$5 prize money portion from regional championship qualifying fees will be equally distributed among all the regions.
4. Based on the \$5 fees and any sponsorship money collected, each championship class offered will receive an equal amount of prize money for three championship divisions (Open, Amateur, Jr/YR).
5. USDF collected prize money not paid out, for whatever reason, shall be returned to the USDF prize money fund.
6. The amount of prize money to be paid out is calculated according to the following formula:
  - a. Total amount in qualified ride fees from December 1 of two years preceding to November 30 of year preceding the championships divided by two = X;
  - b. Unawarded prize money from previous year + X = Y;
  - c. Y divided by total number of regions = Z;
  - d. Z divided by the total number of classes and all divisions offered = prize money per class;
  - e. Champion receives 60 percent (rounded up to whole number) of prize money per class;
  - f. Reserve Champion receives 40 percent (rounded up to whole number) of prize money per class.
7. All prize money will be awarded to the recorded owner of the horse.
8. Grant money allocated to each regional championships will be distributed one-third in advance, upon receipt by the USDF office of the executed regional championship manager's contract, and two-thirds after the competition, provided that all requirements to USDF have been met.
9. The chair or appointed regional championships representative shall oversee the selection, style and sizing of the championship jackets and prizes. Further, no jackets from previous years will be distributed for the current year, unless requested by the competitors.

## H. REIMBURSEMENT

1. Reasonable expenses for telephone calls and postage related to work for a council or committee may be reimbursed by USDF after submission of a written request, accompanied by receipts and documentation of expenses. Such requests must be approved, in advance, by the executive director.
2. Program or project budgets may not include reimbursement for travel or printing/copying expenses or fees for members of the council and committee. Other than expenses for telephone calls or postage, other reasonable expenses *may* only be reimbursed if approved, in advance, by the executive director or EB.
3. All work by USDF members is on a volunteer basis and expenses will not be paid by USDF except by permission of the executive director. Duties that are within the normal volunteer function will not be paid for. Only special cases over and above expected volunteer services will be covered on a case-by-case basis, except cases that may be specified elsewhere in USDF Policies and Procedures.

4. Effective April 1, 2006: Any request for reimbursement must be made within the same fiscal year that the expense occurred. It is preferred that the request be made within 30 days of the occurrence.

## **I. REGIONAL FEES CHARGED AT USDF/USEF COMPETITIONS**

1. In order for a USDF Region to impose a mandatory fee on competition entry forms for USEF licensed/USDF recognized competitions in their region, the following conditions must be met in order to comply with USEF rules for fees that are imposed by a USEF affiliate member:
  - a. The purpose and amount of the fee, and the manner in which the fee is to be imposed and collected must be presented in writing to the region's delegates at the USDF Annual Convention, prior to a vote of the region's delegates, which must take place during a scheduled regional meeting at the same convention.
  - b. The region must notify the USDF EB and executive director, in writing, prior to the vote with details regarding the amount and intent of the fee.
  - c. The proposal must be approved by a quorum of the voting strength of the region's delegates to the USDF Annual Convention.
  - d. If a vote is taken and is determined to be invalid (in content or in voting procedure), the USDF EB may review and amend the fee or requirements if it is determined that the vote or content was not in accordance with USDF policy.
  - e. Once such a fee has been approved for a region, the policy approved, including procedures for collection and remittance of the fee must be communicated by letter to all USEF licensed/USDF recognized competitions in the region.
  - f. The regional fee must be a separate item on the entry form, designated as such, and not combined with any other fee.
  - g. On a form provided by the region, the competition will complete the following information: date, competition name, manager's name, address and phone number, number of horses entered, amount remitted.
  - h. The forms and funds will be sent to the regional treasurer who will document receipt of funds and confirm that the fees are correct.
  - i. The regional treasurer will then remit the funds, along with the "USDF Request for Deposit to Regional Accounts" form, to USDF for deposit into the regional account.

## **J. SOLICITATION OF FUNDS BY REGIONS, COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES**

1. Regions often host regional fundraising events or procure sponsors for regional events and programs. In order for these sponsors, donors, and funds to be correctly processed by USDF and to ensure all sponsors and donors are properly thanked and receive tax-deduction information, the following guidelines should be followed by regions when depositing these funds into the regional account.
2. For funds raised through events or programs as regional income, or for funds raised in the form of regional donations:
  - a. Funds generated by or for regional programs, events or competitions as income should be deposited into the region's USDF account. The following procedure should be followed when depositing funds raised as income into the regional account:
    - i. All profits or funds raised from regional programs, events or competition activities, or funds raised in the form of regional donations, must be sent to USDF by the regional director or regional treasurer with a regional account deposit form, and must be clearly marked for deposit in the appropriate regional account. Regional

- account categories include: Adult Education, FEI Junior/Young Rider, Championship, General Education, General Funds, Junior, other.
- ii. The checks must be made payable to: "USDF Region #".
  - iii. If a donation, the check's memo field should read, "\_\_\_\_\_ donation" indicating the category in which the funds should be deposited. If not a donation, the memo field should indicate the event or program for which payment is made.
  - iv. The check should be accompanied by a regional account deposit form. Section A of deposit form should be completed to account for all funds.
  - v. The check will then be deposited in that region's bank account, with the amount designated for the appropriate regional account category as listed above.
- b. Donations procured by regions are tax deductible. However funds generated from sources other than donations are not tax deductible.
- i. All donations should be entered in Section B of the regional deposit form.
  - ii. If requested on the regional deposit form, Section B, USDF will send acknowledgement to the donor. If the regional deposit form does not indicate USDF should send acknowledgement to the donor, no acknowledgement will be sent from the national office and the regional director must ensure proper acknowledgement has been sent to the donor at the regional level, either by the regional director, or a regional representative appointed by the regional director.

## **IV. MEMBERSHIP**

### **A. GROUP MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

[Also see Bylaws, Article V, Section 2]

1. Membership rosters and dues, and the name of the official USDF contact of each GMO, are due in the USDF office by December 1. Rosters must be faxed, e-mailed or USPS postmarked on or before December 1, along with dues, in order to avoid late penalties. Dues may be paid by credit card. Groups submitting delinquent membership rosters and corresponding dues will be fined based on the previous year's membership as follows: fewer than 75 members, \$25; from 75 to 174 members, \$50; from 175 to 499 members, \$100; and 500 or more members, \$500.
2. The Group Membership year will be from December 1 through November 30 and dues will be accepted through November 30. Memberships received after September 1 which are to be applied to the current membership year must be clearly marked with the year indicated. If the year is not indicated, the memberships will automatically be applied to the following membership year (membership will be effective December 1).
3. A GMO will pay an initial fee of \$25 and shall file with USDF a current copy of its procedures and bylaws and a roster of its dues-paying members. Group Member Organizations are not required to have 25 members at the time the initial roster is submitted, but must meet this requirement by September 1 of the current membership year. In order to have voting rights at the annual convention for the current year, current membership rosters and dues of new GMOs shall be submitted to USDF office prior to September 1 of each year, along with the minimum number of 25 members, as required in USDF Bylaws. (USDF Bylaws, Article V, Section 2)
4. A GMO shall pay annual dues to USDF of \$17 per member on the basis of per capita assessment of its dues-paying members as listed in the current roster. All members of the GMO shall be included on the roster and dues paid for each member. USDF offers a Family Membership category. A family is defined as individuals in an immediate family who either live at the same address or who have the same legal address. For each family membership submitted, one

member must be designated as the Primary Family Member and all others will be considered Supporting Family Members and must be designated as such on the roster. A GMO shall pay annual dues to USDF of \$17 per Primary Family Member and \$8 for each Supporting Family Member. Effective for receipt of application for 2008 memberships, USDF will no longer offer discounts on PMs. Corrections and additions to membership rosters shall be filed at least quarterly, monthly is recommended. Rosters received after September 1 of the current membership year must be clearly marked as to which year the memberships should apply. If a year is not indicated with the roster, the memberships will automatically be applied to the following membership year (membership will be effective December 1). GMOs will be notified of their credit/balance due and all current membership year balances must be paid not later than November 30 of the current membership year.

5. **All USDF GMO Family Members are considered GMs of USDF, whether Primary or Supporting, and are counted toward the GMO's voting strength at the BOG.**
6. GMO rosters are sent out electronically each year along with instructions for updating and resubmitting. GMOs may request a hard copy of their roster by contacting the USDF office.
7. GMOs shall file with USDF an amended copy of their procedures and bylaws within 60 days of approval of changes.
8. Effective December 1, 2009: GMOs shall submit the GMO Affiliate Verification Form annually to the USDF office, signed by the GMO's president, prior to December 1. By submitting this form, the GMO agrees to participate as an affiliated club with USDF for the following membership year, as well as comply with USDF Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. If the GMO Affiliate Verification Form is not submitted by December 1, the GMO will be removed from the USDF Web site. The GMO's listing will be added to the USDF Web site once the form has been received in the USDF office with the appropriate signature.
9. USDF GMs belonging to more than one GMO and desiring a refund of the USDF portion of multiple GM dues should contact USDF in writing between April 1 and August 1 of the current year. (GMO Supporting Family Members are not eligible.) A primary GMO for voting purposes must be declared in writing at the same time. Dues for a primary GMO are non-refundable. GMs who have received refunds will not be counted in the number of members used to determine voting strength of a GMO in the Board of Governors meeting at the annual convention. GMs receive a subscription to the *USDF Connection*. **For each Family Membership, only the Primary Family Member will receive a copy of the USDF Connection magazine to the Primary Family Member's address.** GMs are eligible for USDF Rider Award programs.
10. GMs receive a GM card from USDF, unless they are also a PM or unless their GMO has chosen to opt members out of GM cards printed by USDF.
11. GMs are eligible to receive member discounts at USDF events.
12. GMs are eligible for USDF University Program credits.
13. GMOs shall print on the first page of each newsletter and on their membership application the following statement: *[Name of organization] is a USDF GMO and all members are automatically USDF GMs. For USDF PM, members must apply directly to USDF.*
14. A postage surcharge, according to current postal rates, for members outside of the United States will be assessed for members who wish to receive USDF mailings. (Currently \$15)

**B. PARTICIPATING MEMBERS**

[Also see Bylaws, Article V, Section 3]

1. Membership shall begin upon the date the application form and all correct fees are received by the USDF office, and shall expire on the following November 30, except as otherwise noted in classifications. The membership year for renewing members begins on December 1.
2. USDF will not be held responsible for late, damaged or misdirected mail.
3. Once the membership has been processed, no membership refunds will be given unless approved by the department director. If a current member pays for an additional membership, the membership term will be extended an additional year.
4. Classification of PMs
  - a. Life PM - \$1,000
  - b. Five - Year PM - \$250
  - c. One - Year PM - \$62
  - d. One -year Youth PM - \$35.00. Members who have not reached their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday by the first day of the membership year (December 1) for which they are applying.
5. One -Year Participating and One -Year Youth PMs will receive a USDF membership card every year, and Life and Five -Year PMs will receive one card, with unlimited replacement cards at no charge for the duration of their membership.
6. PMs are eligible to receive member discounts at USDF events.
7. ***Effective December 1, 2009:*** PMs receive a discount on merchandise provided that a PM number is provided on the order form. (Some exclusions apply.)
8. PMs are eligible for USDF University Program credits.
9. PMs are eligible to participate in all award programs and regional championship qualifying and championship classes.
10. PMs receive ***a subscription to USDF Connection*** and the *USDF Directory*.
11. Candidates for delegates to represent the PMs on the USDF Board of Governors shall be nominated by sending the names of nominees to the Nominating Council coordinator from the respective region with a copy to the Nominating Council chairman prior to April 15 [Bylaws, Article V, section 3f]. A ballot shall be mailed to each PM by June 1 [***Reference Bylaws, Article XXI, section 6h***]. The EB may extend these deadlines.
12. A postage surcharge, according to current postal rates, for members outside of the United States will be assessed for members who wish to receive USDF mailings. (Currently \$15)

**C. BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP**

[Also see Bylaws, Article V, Section 4]

1. Membership shall begin upon the date the application form and all correct fees are received by the USDF office, and shall expire on the following November 30, except as otherwise noted in classifications. The membership year for renewing members begins on December 1.
2. One - Year Business Membership - \$175

3. **Effective December 1, 2009:** Business Members receive a USDF membership card, **a subscription to** the *USDF Connection*, the *USDF Directory*, a listing on the vendor resource list on the USDF Web site, member discount rate for USDF events, trade show booth discount, advertising discount, a USDF media kit and eligibility to rent the USDF mailing list.
4. A postage surcharge, according to current postal rates, for members outside of the United States will be assessed for members who wish to receive USDF mailings. (Currently \$15)

#### **D. INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS**

[Also see Bylaws, Article V, Section 5]

1. Membership rosters and dues, and the name of the official USDF contact of each International Affiliate Member Organization (IAO), are due in the USDF office by December 1. Rosters must be faxed, e-mailed or USPS postmarked on or before December 1, along with dues, in order to avoid late penalties. Dues may be paid by credit card. Groups submitting delinquent membership rosters and corresponding dues will be fined based on the previous year's membership as follows: fewer than 75 members, \$25; from 75 to 174 members, \$50; from 175 to 499 members, \$100; and 500 or more members, \$500.
2. The International Affiliate year will be from December 1 through November 30 and dues will be accepted through November 30. Rosters received after September 1 of the current membership year must be clearly marked as to which year the memberships should apply. If a year is not submitted with the roster, the memberships will automatically be applied to the following membership year (membership will be effective December 1).

An IAO will pay an initial fee of \$25 US dollars and shall file with USDF a current copy of its procedures and bylaws and a roster of its dues-paying members. International Affiliate Organizations are not required to have 25 members at the time the initial roster is submitted, but must meet this requirement by September 1 of the current membership year.

3. An IAO shall pay annual dues to USDF of \$17 US dollars per member on the basis of per capita assessment of its dues-paying members as are listed in the current roster. All members of the IAO shall be included on the roster and dues paid for each member. USDF offers a Family Membership Category. A family is defined as individuals in an immediate family who either live at the same address or who have the same legal address. For each family membership submitted, one member must be designated as the Primary Family Member and all others will be considered Supporting Family Members and must be designated as such on the roster. An IAO shall pay annual dues to USDF of \$17 per Primary Family Member and \$8 for each Supporting Family Member. USDF will only provide one copy of the *USDF Connection* magazine to the Primary Family Member's address. All USDF IAO/GMO Family Members are considered IAO/GMO members of USDF. Corrections and additions to membership rosters shall be filed at least quarterly, monthly is recommended. Rosters received after September 1 of the current membership year must be clearly marked as to which year the memberships should apply. If a year is not submitted with the roster, the memberships will automatically be applied to the following membership year (membership will be effective December 1). IAOs will be notified of their credit/balance due and all balances must be paid not later than November 30 of the current membership year.
4. IAO rosters are sent out electronically each year, along with instructions for updating and resubmitting. IAOs may request a hard copy of their roster by contacting the USDF office.
5. An IAO shall file with USDF an amended copy of its procedures and bylaws within 60 days of approval of changes.

6. USDF International Affiliate Members belonging to more than one GMO or IAO and desiring a refund of the USDF portion of multiple GM or IAO dues should contact USDF in writing between April 1 and August 1 of the current year. (GMO/IAO Supporting Family Members are not eligible.)
7. International Affiliate Members receive a subscription to the *USDF Connection*.
8. International Affiliate Members are eligible for USDF Rider Award programs.
9. International Affiliate Members receive a GM card from USDF, unless they are also a PM or unless their IAO has chosen to opt members out of GM cards printed by USDF.
10. International Affiliate Members are eligible to receive member-discounts at USDF events.
11. International Affiliate Members are eligible for USDF University Program credits.
12. IAOs shall print on the first page of each newsletter and on their membership application the following statement: [Name of organization] is a USDF IAO and all members are automatically USDF International Affiliate Members.
13. A postage surcharge, according to current postal rates, for members outside of the United States will be assessed for members who wish to receive USDF mailings. (Currently \$15)

## **E. MEMBERSHIP POLICIES**

1. The following must be current PMs of USDF in good standing:
  - a. EB members
  - b. Youth Executive Board (YEB) members
  - c. Council/committee chairpersons
  - d. Participants in designated USDF programs (see Section IX.A)
2. The following must be current GMs, IMs, or PMs of USDF in good standing:
  - a. Council/committee members
  - b. Competition managers of USDF recognized competitions. Exception: The competition manager of FEI-designated Championships is exempt from USDF membership requirements.
  - c. USEF Dressage Judges, Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Judges, and Dressage Technical Delegates.
3. USDF will extend two complimentary tickets to the salute gala, for the year awarded, to USDF Hall of Fame (HOF) and Lifetime Achievement award recipients. USDF will also extend Lifetime PM status and complimentary lifetime registration to the USDF Annual Convention with full privileges to all living inductees into the USDF HOF and Lifetime Achievement award winners.
4. Living riders who have been members of a U.S. Olympic or Paralympics dressage team will be made Lifetime PMs of USDF, and will receive a lifetime complimentary registration to the annual convention, with full privileges, and recognition in the USDF National Education Center.
5. Any USDF member suspended by USEF will be considered a USDF member not in good standing during the period of USEF suspension. During this period, such a person will be ineligible to participate in USDF programs, including having his/her name removed from the list of Certified Instructors, Instructor Workshop Faculty, Instructor Certification Examiners, and "L" Program Faculty. (See also USDF Bylaws, Article V. Section 1. Member in Good Standing).

6. People who hold USDF positions such as council and committee chairs, “L” faculty members, Instructor Workshop faculty, members and examiners who are Certified Instructors and “L” graduates must be members in good standing, with no outstanding debt to USDF or they will no longer have the privileges of those USDF positions.
7. Non-renewal of membership will result in removal of any USDF “L” graduate's name from any USDF publications listing “L” graduates, including the USDF Web site and *USDF Directory*, for any period of lapsed membership.
8. Non-renewal of membership may result in omission of names of USEF Licensed Officials from USDF publications listing licensed officials, including the USDF Web site and *USDF Directory*.
9. Non-renewal of membership may result in omission of the USDF Certified Instructor's name from USDF publications listing USDF Certified Instructors, including the USDF Web site and *USDF Directory*.
10. A notice should appear in the *USDF Connection* annually and a form placed on the USDF Web site that multiple GMO dues may be requested to be refunded.
11. The fee for replacing membership cards is \$10 for all categories, including Participating, Business, **and** Group Members. Members have 45 days, upon receipt of their membership card, to report any errors to USDF and receive a replacement card at no cost. After 45 days, the error will be corrected and the member can purchase a new card for \$10. Members have 60 days, from the date their renewal is received in the USDF office, to inform USDF that the card has not been received. If USDF has been notified within 60 days, a new card will be printed and mailed at no cost. After 60 days, the member may purchase a card for \$10.
12. Membership contact information is confidential and is only released under the following circumstances:
  - a. If the member is on an official published USDF list
  - b. As part of a list rental per the list rental policy (See Ch. XI. Marketing, Section D.)  
Members who do not wish to have their contact information released per a. and b. above, must contact USDF and request that their name and contact information be removed from these lists.
13. Any participant in a USDF recognized competition must have at least a USDF Non-Member Identification Number, except a handler in DSHB classes, or riders and owners competing in classes which are exempt from USDF HID requirements. A participant can apply for a USDF non-member number free of charge. Non-member ID cards can be downloaded from the USDF Web site. There is a \$10 charge if the individual chooses to have a card printed and mailed by the USDF office. If a current PM, GM, or IM applies and pays for a non-member ID card, the \$10 will be donated to the COF.
14. Effective January 1, 2005, with the 2004 Paralympic Games, members of the US Paralympic dressage team will be made Lifetime PMs of USDF. They will also receive a lifetime complimentary registration to the annual convention, with full privileges, and recognition in the USDF National Education Center.

## **V. HORSE REGISTRATIONS**

1. USDF HID and USDF Lifetime Horse Registration are one-time identifying numbers issued by USDF.

2. Horses entered in USEF licensed/USDF recognized competitions must have either a USDF Lifetime Registration or a USDF HID. Exception: Horses competing only in Individual Breed Classes (IBCs) at DSHB competitions, horses competing only in breed restricted dressage or DSHB classes at regular competitions (e.g. all Arabian, all Friesian, or all Morgan classes), or in USDF Introductory Level tests, Pas de Deux, Quadrille, or FEI ParaEquestrian classes, are exempt from this requirement. Also exempt are horses ridden in leadline, exhibitions, games and races, classes for 4-H members, walk-trot, academy, **and opportunity classes**. For foreign-owned horses competing in a CDI, USDF accepts copies of the horse identification pages from an FEI passport in lieu of a USDF HID or Lifetime Registration Number.
3. Any horse participating in a USDFBC Series Final, regional championship qualifying or championship class, or USDF Horse of the Year award program must be lifetime registered with USDF.
4. Both the HID and the Lifetime Horse Registration shall begin upon the date the application form and all correct fees are received at the USDF office. For LHR, the owner must be a current member of USDF at the time of application. ***This applies to a lessee submitting a lease agreement for a lifetime registered horse or to the new owner when transferring ownership for a lifetime registered horse.***
5. Pedigree information is not official without breed registry papers on file with USDF. Breed registry papers are not entered unless the horse has either USDF HID or LHR.
6. Scores for horses with a USDF HID or Lifetime Registration shall be recorded providing the rider and owner/lessee have a USDF number, except in exempt classes.
7. Leased horses may be recorded with USDF in the name of the lessee. If a lease is recorded, the lessee will be recognized as ***the bona fide*** “owner” ***for the period of the lease*** for all USDF membership requirements ***and*** for ***USDF championship and award purposes***.
  - i. For qualifying scores to count for any USDF Regional Championships ***or year end award program***, the lease recording ***form*** and fees must be received by USDF on or before the first day of any competition where qualifying scores are earned.
  - ii. A copy of the lease recording and appropriate fees must be submitted to USDF. The effective date of the lease recording ***form*** is the date that appropriate form and fees are received by USDF.
  - iii. The lease recording ***form*** must contain a start and end date, name and address of the lessee and the lesser, be signed by the lessee and lesser, ***and be notarized***.
  - iv. The lease recording fee of \$25 is paid for each lease recorded with USDF. If the horse is being registered at the same time, the \$25 lease recording fee is in addition to any registration fees for the horse.
  - v. If there is no end date stated ***on*** the lease recording ***form***, the recording will expire with USDF on November 30.
  - vi. If a lease is extended or terminated prior to the end date, a new lease recording ***form*** should be submitted to USDF, and must contain an end or termination date, as well as the signatures of the lessee and lesser.
  - vii. A lease recording can be renewed free of charge prior to 30 days of the expiration date, by submitting a recording form with updated information. Otherwise, the recording fee of \$25 applies. The new effective date will be the date the updated recording ***form and fees are*** received.
  - viii. A written statement of termination must be submitted and signed by the lessor and lessee if the lease is terminated before the end date stated in the lease ***recording form***.

- ix. ***USDF does not accept agent signatures on the lease recording form.***
8. USDF allows a Youth PM to be a recorded owner of a USDF registered horse.
9. Registration fees:
- a. Life Registration of the Horse - \$85.
  - b. Transfer or change of ownership of lifetime registered horse - \$25.
  - c. Printing of any duplicate certificate or card - \$10.
  - d. Change of life registered horse's name - \$25. (In regards to foals, horses are allowed ONE name change, at no charge, within one year of their foaling date. Breed papers must be submitted to verify foaling date and name. The name change will only be completed, at no charge, if the name is being changed to match the breed registry name.)
  - e. HID of the horse - \$20.
  - f. Transfer or change of ownership of horse with HID - \$10.
  - g. Change of name of HID horse - \$10. (In regards to foals, horses are allowed ONE name change, at no charge, within one year of their foaling date. Breed papers must be submitted to verify foaling date and name. The name change will only be completed, at no charge, if the name is being changed to match the breed registry name.)
  - h. Upgrade from HID to Lifetime Registration - \$65.
  - i. Lease agreement or renewal- \$25
  - j. A certificate/card can be downloaded from the USDF Web site at no charge.
  - k. Errors on the part of USDF, and reported within ***45 days of the registration date***, are corrected in the database. The old certificate/card is immediately invalid once changes are made. ONLY the updated certificate is valid for use at recognized competitions. A new certificate is sent free of charge.
  - l. Errors on the owner's part and reported within ***45 days of the registration date*** are corrected in the USDF database. The old certificate/card is immediately invalid once changes are made. ONLY the updated certificate is valid for use at recognized competitions. If a new certificate/card is requested the duplicate fee is charged.
  - m. If any changes are requested outside the ***45 day period***, the appropriate charges above will be applied. The old certificate/card is immediately invalid once changes are made. ONLY the updated certificate is valid for use at recognized competitions.
  - n. ***Owners have 60 days from the date the registration application is received in the USDF office to inform USDF that the certificate has not been received. If USDF has been notified within 60 days, a new certificate will be printed and mailed at no cost. After 60 days, a new certificate may be purchased for \$10.***
  - o. All transactions are charged individually. For example, if requesting a name change and transfer both transactions are charged for. If doing a name change for a horse and an upgrade at the same time, the HID fee is charged for the name change and the upgrade fee is also charged.
10. Scores earned in competitions that are held prior to securing a USDF HID or USDF Lifetime Registration of the horse shall not be recorded.
11. USDF will not be held responsible for late, damaged or misdirected mail.
12. USDF accepts copies of the horse identification pages from an FEI passport of a foreign owned horse competing in a CDI, in lieu of a USDF HID or Lifetime Registration Number. Identification information must be submitted to USDF along with results. In lieu of pages from the FEI passport, the HID application can be completed, including passport number; however, no fees will be assessed. A certificate will not be sent to these individuals unless the fee of \$10 is paid.

13. The addition of another owner to a horse's record is considered a change of ownership. This applies to the addition of any family member (spouse, parent or child), co-owner or listing of a business as an additional owner. USDF requires a written statement along with the appropriate fee from the current owner on file requesting that the new owner is to be added. ***If a horse has multiple owners and one or more of the owners needs to be removed from the record, a transfer of ownership must be completed.*** Appropriate forms and fees are necessary to process any of the above. Please refer to 9, under V. Horse Registration for complete listing of fees.
14. Transfer of Ownership Instructions:
- The change of ownership fees are applied when there is a transfer of ownership from one individual to another. This applies to the transfer from one family member to another, transfer from an individual to the individual's business and vice versa, or transferring from a single owner to adding additional owners.
  - Transfer of ownership is effective the date that form and fees are received into the USDF office.
  - The process of transferring ownership requires the signatures of the previous owner on file with USDF. If there is more than one previous owner, signatures from both parties are necessary.
  - The USDF registration certificate can be used to complete the transfer. The new owner needs to complete the ownership information on the back of the certificate and have the previous owner sign the certificate.
  - If the USDF certificate is not available, the USDF office needs a document (i.e., bill of sale, breed papers, cancelled check) indicating both the previous and new owner(s). The transfer of ownership form needs to be completed and sent with the document.
  - USDF does not accept the signature of an agent on any transfer of ownership forms.
  - If no signature of the previous owner(s) can be acquired, the transfer of ownership form must be completed, notarized and submitted to USDF with the appropriate fee.
  - Upon acceptance by USDF of the transfer of ownership, the former horse registration certificate/card becomes invalid.
15. Changing USDF records to reflect special designation to a horse's name, i.e. the addition of farm initials to a horse's name or the addition of "J", "\*\*", St. PR. ST., etc., is done free of charge. The \$10 duplicate fee must be paid if a new certificate is requested; however a new certificate can be downloaded from the Web site free of charge.
16. The person or legal entity listed as breeder on a horse's foal registry papers will be listed as breeder in the USDF database. A change in the name of the recorded breeder can only be authorized and performed as an official entry on the registration papers by the registry that issued the registry papers on file with USDF. A copy of the amended registration papers must be submitted to USDF prior to any changes being made in the USDF database.

## **VI. COMPETITIONS**

### **A. USEF-LICENSING/USDF-RECOGNITION**

- For a competition to be USDF recognized, it must first be licensed by USEF. All applications must be made on the appropriate form provided by USEF and can be obtained by contacting USEF, 4047 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511; (859) 258-2472. USEF will administrate the processing of new and renewal USEF-license/USDF-recognition applications. The duration of USDF recognition will be for ***one year***. The competition type, name, and dates submitted to USEF will be sent to USDF. For USEF regular or local competitions, USDF recognition is optional.

Regular or local competitions applying for USDF recognition must first be licensed by USEF and indicate that they wish to be USDF-recognized on the appropriate form provided by USEF, at which time, USEF will initiate USDF recognition. If for any reason, the USEF license is revoked, USDF recognition is immediately withdrawn and fees will not be refunded.

2. The USDF administration fee of \$75 per competition, regardless of number of days of the competition will be paid directly to USEF annually, along with USEF-license fees. A US competition hosting the North American Junior Championships and/or North American Young Rider's Championship is exempt from the USDF administration fee. If a competition is cancelled, competition recognition fees will not be refunded; however, if USEF approval is not granted, USDF competition recognition fees will be refunded (including USDFBC Series fees).
3. All USEF-licensed/USDF-recognized competitions will be publicized in advance on the USDF Web site. See the USDF Competition Fee and Penalty Structure (Chapter VI, Section H).
4. The competition must advertise itself as USDF- recognized, and is required to use the *current* USDF recognition page in its prize list and program. The competition may not advertise itself as USDF recognized until USDF recognition has been granted. The USDF recognition page is printable from the USDF Web site and from the USDF Competition Managers *flash drive*. It is also available from the office upon request.
5. A copy of the prize list or omnibus pages must be sent to USDF **at least 30 days** prior to the competition, or as noted in USDFBC Series or USDF Regional Championship contracts. One copy of the program must be sent to USDF for **Regional Championships** and USDFBC Series finals. Failure to comply may result in refusal to recognize the competition the following year, or fines. See USDF Competition Fee and Penalty Structure (Chapter VI, Section H).
6. Any changes to the USEF license agreement/USDF competition recognition will require a written request to USEF. In addition to any USEF fees, a USDF fee is charged for each of the following changes after competition recognition has been granted: date, location, or name. The name change fee does not apply to USDF Regional Championships or USDFBC Series finals. See USDF Competition Fee and Penalty Structure (Chapter VI, Section H).
7. All USDF recognized competitions are required to carry at least \$1 million insurance liability coverage which cites USDF as an "additional insured", and submit a copy of the insurance certificate to USDF at least two weeks prior to the competition. Failure to comply will result in a fine. (See Ch. VI. Competitions, Section H)
8. A copy of the USDF Statement on Animal Welfare must be posted in prominent public view at USDF recognized competitions. The statement should also be printed in the prize list or program.
9. All USDF recognized competitions must use only the current competition recognition, membership and affidavit forms provided by USDF or available on the USDF Web site.

## **B. USEF/USDF RECOGNIZED COMPETITION REPORTING**

1. Within ten days after the final day of the USEF/USDF recognized competition, complete results for all competitors in all dressage or DSHB classes must be sent to USDF, in an acceptable format. Results must be sent electronically, formatted according to USDF Electronic Results Submission Standard (ERSS), which is published on the USDF Web site, or must be mailed directly to USDF in a hard copy format, according to USDF Results, Fees, and Paperwork Submission Guidelines. Effective April 1, 2009: Handwritten results will not be accepted. Mail service with delivery verification is required, postmarked within ten days, for results which cannot be sent in USDF ERSS format.

2. For competitions held during the last two weeks of September (including the last two weekends), the results, fees and paperwork must be received in the USDF office by the 5<sup>th</sup> day after the last day of dressage or DSHB classes in the USEF/USDF recognized competition.
3. Any competition-related payment must be accompanied by the USDF Report of Fees document that is **located on the USDF Web site and the Competition Managers flash drive**. Payment must be submitted (postmarked, faxed or sent electronically) within ten days of the last day of the dressage or DSHB competition (or received within five days of the last day of dressage or DSHB competition if the competition is held within the last two weeks of September, including the last two weekends). Results will not be entered until payment and all paperwork is received. Penalty fees will be assessed for late results and/or fees. (See Ch. III. Financial, Section A and see USDF Competition Fee and Penalty Structure (Chapter VI, Section H.)
4. Overpayment of fees on the competition "Report of Fees" form up to \$25 will not be refunded, but will accrue to the accounting category to which it was applied. Overpayment of over \$25 will be automatically refunded to the competition. (See. Ch. III Financial, Section B)  
Exception: USDF Regional Championship qualifying fees collected from competitors and submitted by competition management to USDF will not be refunded.
5. Late or incomplete results will result in an assessment of fees and penalties per USDF Competition Fee and Penalty Structure (Chapter VI, Section H) which must be paid prior to future USDF recognition. The names of competitions not complying with this rule may be published. "Late" is defined as postmarked or electronically submitted more than ten days after the last day of dressage or DSHB competition. "Incomplete" is defined as missing any of the items required on USDF Results, Fees and Paperwork Submission Guidelines. Refer to USDF Competition Fee and Penalty Structure.
6. Competition results must be formatted and submitted in accordance with USDF Results, Fees and Paperwork Submission Guidelines or USDF ERSS. Results must include all required USDF numbers with each score. Marked programs are not acceptable. Competition results must be submitted to USDF in either of the following formats: (1) mailed-in paper results, or (2) USDF ERSS. USDF will no longer accept electronic results in any format other than ERSS.
7. USDF numbers must be reported for all horses/riders/owners. (For exceptions refer to VI. Competitions F. Membership Requirements for USDF Recognized Competitions.) Scores must be submitted for all horses whether or not USDF registration is indicated or numbers are included. Scores for all completed rides must be reported to USDF, whether or not the horse and rider placed in that class. In classes where horses are placed and no scores are given by the judges (i.e., Suitability classes or DSHB Championships), the placings (ranking of horses) must be reported to USDF.
8. For each class, the name of the class (i.e. First Level Open, First Level Novice, etc.), the level and test (i.e. First Level, Test 2), and the name(s) of the judge(s) must be given. The level of each freestyle ride must be included. The name of the rider and owner, and their USDF numbers must be included for each horse in each class. The level and test of any "test of choice" or "percentage" class must be reported for each horse entered. Additional information on the procedure for reporting other specialized classes for regional championship qualifiers and dressage sport horse breeding is available from the USDF Competitions Department or on the USDF Web site.
9. The owner's and rider's full name(s) and USDF number(s), along with horse's registered name (as on USDF records) and USDF Lifetime Horse Registration or HID must be reported for every ride or entry unless excepted per Ch VI., Section F. (Membership Requirements for USDF-Recognized Competitions).

10. The numerical score (total points) must be reported in addition to the percentage calculated to three decimal points (55.234 percent). Round up from five to determine the third decimal (60.0015 = 60.002 percent). For more than one judge, report the raw score for each judge and the average percentage of all judges, calculated to three places after the decimal point.
11. The name of the Dressage Technical Delegate, or Steward for eligible USEF regular or local competitions, must be included with the competition results.
12. Mathematical computations and accuracy in recording scores are the responsibility of competition management. Competitors should be urged to check their test sheets, bringing any errors to the attention of competition management within one hour of the official posting of the scores from the last class of that competition day.
13. USDF Regional Championship qualifying scores must be indicated as such. A \$10 fee for each qualifying ride must be submitted to USDF with competition results.
14. Competition managers that do not include full payment as detailed on the USDF Report of Fees form will be subject to the penalties detailed in the current USDF Competition Fee and Penalty Structure.

### C. USDF REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. The following information about the USDF Regional Championships program is available from the USDF Competitions Department and printable from the USDF Web site:
  - a. Regional championship qualifying season for each of the nine USDF Regions
  - b. Competition manager's guide to hosting regional championship qualifying classes
  - c. Regional championship program rules
  - d. Regional championship dates and locations
  - e. Regional championship host site application
  - f. Regional championship master omnibus
  - g. Regional championship **FAQs**
  - h. Form and information for competitors on declaring a change of region for the championships
  - i. Other related information specific to regional championships
2. The following documents about the USDF Regional Championships program are available only from the USDF Competitions Department:
  - a. Regional championship manager's contract
  - b. Regional championship manager's notebook
3. Competitions wishing to apply to host a USDF Regional Championship must complete a regional championship host site application, which serves as a tentative contract between competition management and USDF until a manager's contract has been signed by management and the USDF Executive Director. Completed applications must be submitted to the regional director. USDF regions cannot be USEF Competition Licensees.
4. Competition management must also follow the current published protocol, available on the USDF Web site and from the USDF Competitions Department, and comply with all standards and guidelines detailed in the manager's contract, the regional championship program rules, and the regional championship manager's notebook.
5. Regional championship rules will be published by June 1 for the following year's regional championships.
6. Prize money for USDF Regional Championships will be awarded to the recorded owner of the horse within 30 days of the last day of each championship.

7. Grant money will be paid to the organizer of a regional championship, one-third before the competition, upon receipt by the USDF office of the executed regional championship manager's contract, and the remaining two-thirds post-competition, after all results have been submitted, banners and other materials have been returned, and all provisions of the contract have been met.
8. Guidelines for Determining Regional Championship Infractions and Applicable Penalties:
  - a. A thorough review and evaluation of the competition and alleged infractions will be conducted, and may include the following sources:
    - USDF staff representative evaluation or observances if attending
    - Regional director's evaluation
    - TD reports
    - Competitor evaluations
  - b. Only verifiable violations will be used to determine penalties. Isolated or unsubstantiated alleged violations or comments will not be considered. Consideration will be given when violations are corrected in a reasonable and timely manner during the competition.
  - c. An annually appointed Ad-Hoc Review Panel will be established that is populated with managers, judges, technical delegates, and competitors. Appointees shall not be limited solely to members of the USDF Regional Championships Committee. The review panel will be appointed by the president upon the recommendation of the Regional Championship Committee chairman and with final approval of the Management Committee. From the members of the review panel, a group of five members will be selected to review any assessment of penalties that is recommended by staff. All meetings must be in person or via teleconference.
  - d. After the review process is complete, each regional championship competition licensee will receive a standardized letter containing a general assessment of the competition and any grant money that is due. For licensees receiving fines or other penalties, a list of specific violations in each category (below), along with the amount of the fine, will be included.
  - e. If penalties are disputed by the competition licensee of any regional championship, an Appeal Committee will be selected from members of the review panel, to include the original five members who reviewed penalty assessments plus at least two additional members. Review panel members selected to review penalty assessments or serve on the Appeal Committee may not have a conflict of interest in the competition under review. One or two of the members of USDF staff will serve as non-voting advisors to the Appeal Committee.
  - f. Fines will be applied according to the following criteria:
    - Non-compliance with USDF contractual obligations regarding sponsorship requirements and recognition. **Penalty** : \$200-\$500
    - Misrepresentation of information in host site application and/or non-fulfillment of related contractual obligation, including not providing facilities, personnel, etc. **Penalty** : \$200-\$500
    - Non-compliance with USDF contractual obligations and/or USEF/USDF Regional Championship Program Rules, regarding show conduct and standards, except for those included in one or two above. **Penalty** : \$200-\$500
    - Documented problems affecting the safety and welfare of the horses and riders: assess USDF penalties and mandatory reporting of alleged USEF rule violations and safety and welfare concerns to USEF. **Penalty** : \$100-\$300

- Other USEF rule violations: assess USDF penalty and mandatory reporting of rule violations to USEF. **Penalty** : \$100-\$200
- g. Penalties will be assessed separately for violations in each of the five categories named above. For multiple violations (i.e. multiple categories), a maximum fine of \$1500 per competition will be assessed. Effective with the 2006 USEF USDF Regional Championship season, violations will be tracked and fines may be increased for the following year for repeated violations. A competition that repeats violations, commits violations of a serious nature, or fails to sufficiently correct conditions may jeopardize future opportunities to host the USDF Regional Championship.
- h. The licensee may appeal any decision of USDF regarding violations and assessed penalties within 30 days of the receipt of notice (of violation and any associated fines). Appeals must be submitted to USDF in writing by the competition licensee and must include all information to be reviewed by the Appeal Committee when it considers if the fine was justified.

#### **D. USDF BREEDERS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES**

1. The following documents about the USDFBC Series are available from the USDF Competitions Department office and the USDF Web site:
  - a. USDFBC Series host site application and requirements
  - b. USDFBC Series rules
  - c. USDFBC Series page (for prize list and program)
2. Competitions wishing to apply for, and host, a USDFBC Series qualifier or final must submit a separate application form to USDF, including a \$75 application fee if hosting a qualifier or final, or a \$100 fee if hosting both a qualifier and a final at the same competition. Competitions must comply with all standards and guidelines detailed in the manager's contract and the USDFBC Series guidelines.
3. USDF permission is required for a change of date of a USDFBC final once the date has been published by USDF.
4. USDF must be notified immediately if a USDFBC final is cancelled.
5. Ties in USDFBC finals classes will remain unbroken.

#### **E. SPECIAL USDF CLASSES, TESTS AND GUIDELINES**

1. Rules and guidelines for Freestyle, Pas de Deux and Quadrille classes are available from the USDF office, are printable from the USDF Web site, and are included in the *USDF Directory*. Procedures to hold Materiale Classes are available from the USDF office and printable from the USDF Web site.
2. Tests and guidelines for the conduct for the above classes are available from the USDF office. Abbreviated test sheets, for reference only, are also available in the *USDF Directory* and on the USDF Web site.

#### **F. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR USDF- RECOGNIZED COMPETITIONS**

1. Owners or riders, including foreign riders and owners who are not residents of the US, wishing to participate in a USEF licensed/USDF recognized competition as a rider or owner/lessee, must be either a current USDF GM, a USDF PM, a USDF IM, or have a USDF Non-Member Identification Number. (Note: Business Members can compete as horse owners, but cannot compete as riders unless they are also a USDF GM, PM or IM, or have a USDF Non-Member Identification Number

or unless riding in classes in which membership is not currently required by USDF rules.)  
Exception: Riders and owners/lessees competing only in classes which are exempt from USDF HID requirements are also exempt from USDF non-member ID requirements. Effective October 1, 2007: For each USDF non-member owner/lessee and USDF non-member rider there will be a USDF non-member fee of \$20 per competition and a USDF non-member form that must be collected by the show secretary, and submitted to USDF along with the USDF Report of Fees document. Owners/lessees or riders exempt from the non-member number requirements are also exempt from paying the USDF non-member fee. If all the owners of the horse are non-members, only one of the owners must pay the non-member fee. If the horse has at least one owner who is a current USDF member there is no non-member fee assessed. Competition management will be invoiced for all applicable USDF non-member fees not received with USDF post competition paperwork, along with a report listing all USDF non-members. Competition management is then required to submit the non-member fees within 30 days to USDF.

2. Trainers in USEF licensed/USDF recognized competitions are not required to be a USDF member or to have a USDF Non-Member Identification Number.
3. Handlers of horses competing in DSHB In-Hand or Group classes are not required to be a USDF member or to have a USDF Non-Member Identification Number.
4. Horses entered in USEF licensed/USDF recognized competitions must have either a USDF Lifetime Registration or a USDF HID. Exception: Horses competing only in Individual Breed Classes (IBC) at DSHB competitions, sires and dams of horses in DSHB group classes, where those sires or dams are not actually competing in the same competition, horses competing only in breed restricted dressage or DSHB classes at regular competitions (i.e. all Arabian, all Friesian, or all Morgan classes), or in USDF Introductory Level tests, Pas de Deux, Quadrille, or ***ParaEquestrian*** classes, are exempt from this requirement. Also exempt are horses ridden in leadline, exhibitions, games and races, classes for 4-H members, walk-trot, academy, ***and opportunity*** classes. For foreign-owned horses competing in a CDI, USDF accepts copies of the horse identification pages from an FEI passport in lieu of a USDF HID or Lifetime Registration Number. (See Ch V. Horse Registrations)
5. USDF person and horse membership requirements are waived for foreign competitors participating in FEI Championships and in CDI classes.
6. Scores will not be recorded for horses, riders, or owners when applicable non-member and/or HID fees are not paid to USDF.
7. ***Scores will not be recorded for classes that are exempt from membership or horse registration requirements.***

## G. AFFIDAVITS

1. Riders and owners wishing to participate in a USEF licensed/USDF recognized competition, and not able to present either a USDF membership or non-member identification card or verification certificate, or a USDF Lifetime Horse Registration or HID card or verification certificate to the competition secretary, must complete a USDF Horse and Membership Affidavit form, and pay the \$5 affidavit filing fee, in order to participate. A copy of a completed affidavit form from another competition may also be used for verification purposes for up to 60 days. (Exception: Affidavits cannot be used at regional championships.)
2. USDF does not refund USDF Competition Affidavit fees.

3. A rider or owner may submit both their membership affidavit and their horse affidavit on the same form for one \$5 fee.

**H. USDF COMPETITION FEE AND PENALTY STRUCTURE**

(Note that this applies only to USEF/USDF recognized competitions)

1. The USDF Competition Fee and Penalty Structure document details the official policy of USDF with respect to competition fees and penalties. Failure to comply with USDF rules and/or refusal to pay assessed fees may affect recognition of subsequent competitions. This document lists examples of violations for which fines may be assessed.
2. Fines may be assessed for changes in competition name, location and date; for late and/or incomplete results; for late competition recognition; for late or missing prize list; and for violations of USDF regulations and guidelines.
3. The USDF Competition Fee and Penalty document is available from the USDF office, the USDF Web site, *and is located on the Competition Managers' flash drive.*
4. It is USDF's goal that all USDF recognized competitions are conducted in a manner that assures a fair, well run competition in full compliance with all USDF competition regulations and guidelines. However, in order to accomplish this goal, USDF must have the cooperation of competition management in receiving accurate, complete, and timely information, both prior to and after the event. If regulations and guidelines are not followed, or information is not supplied in an accurate or timely manner, a competitor may be unfairly penalized or USDF staff may have to spend an inordinate amount of time tracking down the missing information. To this end, USDF has instituted a fee and penalty structure. USDF does NOT want to assess fines, but must do so when necessary.
5. This USDF Competition Fee and Penalty Structure document shall serve as the official policy of USDF with respect to competition fees and penalties. Failure to comply with USDF rules and refusal to pay assessed fees may affect recognition of subsequent competitions.
6. USDF will not recognize competitions that have not paid dues or fees owed to USDF for any prior recognized competitions. In addition, USDF may recommend to USEF that administrative sanctions be imposed.

**7. *Once competition recognition has been granted, the following fees will be applied for changes less than 30 days prior to competition:***

Change of location	\$25
Change in name of competition	\$25 (does not apply to USDF Regional Championships or USDFBC Series finals)
Change of date	\$25

8. Fee for late competition recognition:  
 Competition recognition application forms must be postmarked, faxed or electronically submitted at least 60 days in advance of a competition and must be accompanied by the appropriate fees. USDF will, upon proof that the competition is licensed by USEF, allow late competition recognition after payment of the applicable fee (listed below). The fee is in addition to all normal fees required of a competition.

59-45 days prior to competition	\$ 50
44-30 days prior to competition	\$150
29-1 day prior to competition	\$250
Non-compliance with competition recognition	\$350

9. Fee for late, incomplete or missing prize list:  
USDF must have in its possession a copy of the prize list for each recognized competition. It is required that the prize list be submitted to USDF at least 30 days prior to the competition unless otherwise noted in the manager's contract for the particular competition (i.e. USDFBC Series finals or USDF Regional Championships). Effective **10/1/2009**: If the prize list is not received at least 30 days prior to the competition, a fee of up to **\$250** will be assessed. It is strongly recommended that the prize list be forwarded by mail with proof of delivery or submitted via e-mail, with staff confirming receipt. If changes are made to the prize list, per USEF GR1404, after it is submitted, the USDF office must be notified of these changes, in writing, prior to the competition or changes must be submitted with the competition results. Fees up to \$100 may also be assessed for incomplete prize lists (i.e. missing USDF recognition page, or other required USDF information). USDF is not responsible for lost, damaged or misdirected mail.
10. Fees for violation of results reporting requirements:  
In order to adequately and precisely enter correct scores for each competition, USDF requires cooperation from each competition management to submit complete, accurate and timely results. Processing errors and delays may occur because of late, incomplete or incorrect results.
- "Late" is defined as postmarked or electronically submitted more than ten days after or, for competitions held during the last two weeks in September (including the last two weekends), received in the USDF office more than five days after the last day of dressage and/or DSHB competition.
  - "Incomplete" is defined as missing any of the items listed on USDF Results, Fees, and Paperwork Submission Guidelines. Competitions missing only a small percentage of the required information may, upon review by staff, be excused from paying this fine.
  - "On time" is defined as results postmarked or electronically submitted within ten days after the last day of dressage and/or DSHB competition. For competitions held during the last two weeks in September (including the last two weekends), "on time" is defined as being received in the USDF office within five days after the last day of dressage or DSHB competition.

Competition results must be submitted to USDF in either of the following formats: (1) mailed-in paper results, or (2) USDF ERSS. USDF will no longer accept electronic results in any format other than ERSS. **Effective 10/1/2010: A processing fee of \$100 per competition will be assessed when results are not submitted to the USDF in the USDF ERSS format.**

11. The following fees will be assessed separately:
- Incomplete results and/or fees (per USDF Results, Fees, and Paperwork Submission Guidelines) for results submitted on time: \$50.
  - Late results and/or fees: \$50 per day after the ten days following the last day of dressage or DSHB competition up to a maximum of **\$1000**, counting from the 11<sup>th</sup> day after the last day of dressage or DSHB competition, until the date that the results are submitted. For competitions held during the last two weeks in September (including the last two weekends), late fees will accrue at the rate of \$50 per day late up to a maximum of **\$1000**, counting from the 6<sup>th</sup> day after the last day of dressage or DSHB competition, until date that the results are received.

**\*\*Note:** For competitions held during the last two weeks of September (including the last two weekends), results, fees, and paperwork must be received at the USDF office within five days of the last day of the dressage or DSHB classes of the USEF licensed/USDF recognized competition, in order to be considered "on time".

12. Any competition-related payment must be accompanied by the USDF Report of Fees document that is included in the USDF competition packet for all USEF licensed/USDF recognized competitions. Payment must be submitted (postmarked, faxed or sent electronically) within ten days of the last day of the dressage or DSHB competition (or received within five days of the last day of dressage or DSHB competition if the competition is held within the last two weeks of September, including the last two weekends.) Any competition related payment sent to USDF must be accompanied with the report of fees form attached. Results will not be entered until payment is received.
13. Fees for other violations of USDF regulations and guidelines: To be determined, on a case by case review. Examples: overcharging USDF Regional Championships qualifying class fee; allowing two judges to collaborate on, and/or submit, one score instead of two independent scores at a USDFBC Series final; and incorrectly formatting USDF qualifying rides.
14. The fee for failure to submit to USDF a certificate of insurance for at least \$1 million liability coverage which cites USDF as an “additional insured” is \$100. The certificate must include the competition name, date and number and must be postmarked at least two weeks prior to the competition.
- 15. *If competition management disputes any competition fees or penalties imposed by USDF, they may appeal in writing to USDF within 30 days of the post-marked date of the competition-related invoice, specifying the reason for the appeal. The appeal is brought forward by the Executive Director to the USDF Management Committee which will review the appeal and, upon finding good cause, may waive a part or all of the fee or penalty.***

## **I. AWARDS**

[Also see the current *USDF Directory* sections on Awards Program or access the information from the USDF Web site.]

- 1. *The following guidelines apply to the adoption of the new award programs, the modification of existing award programs, or the review of previously suspended or terminated award programs under consideration for re-instatement or re-establishment:***
  - a. *When considering a new award, it must have the potential for widespread interest and high levels of participation. Official USDF statistics will be utilized in this evaluation.***
  - b. *Existing award programs must have widespread acceptance and interest by PMs and/or GMs, demonstrated by moderate to high levels of participation evaluated over a provisional three to five year time period showing that in fact, they are a viable and vital part of the awards program.***
  - c. *Notwithstanding a and b above, each new proposal will also be evaluated based upon the unique nature of that individual program.***
  - d. *Costs associated with the award, such as USDF staff time to initiate the programming, and the tracking of annual participation will be key components in the evaluation.***
  - e. *The IT department will be consulted to ensure compatibility within the existing database.***
2. Errors/discrepancies in scores reported by competitions or competitors:
  - a. Notification must be e-mailed, faxed or mailed to the USDF office.
  - b. The case will be reviewed by the USDF Competitions Department and the competitor notified of the outcome. The decision of the competitions department is final.

3. Any changes in the awards system are to become effective as of the date established by the Board of Governors.
4. No corrections will be made to USDF official year-end results or award standings after 5:00 pm EST on October 15. If USDF is notified, in writing, of errors prior to 5:00 pm EST on October 15, the placings will be corrected. If USDF is not notified, in writing, of errors prior to 5:00 pm EST on October 15, including those caused by the competitor, the competition, or USDF, no changes will be made.
5. Ties are not broken for year-end awards. However, contracts with award program sponsors should detail how cash or other prizes will be apportioned or augmented, if there is a tie.
6. Competition results, show records, horse pedigree information and other horse records are available to the public on the USDF Web site, and may be disseminated by USDF through special reports or other forms of communication. A fee may be charged for customized reports and services that are not automatically printable from the Web site. The fee structure or a quote for customized reports and services may be requested from the USDF office.
7. Scores reported to USDF may only be changed with written permission of competition management.
8. The following must be true at the time scores are earned for scores to count towards USDF year-end awards:
  - a. The rider of the horse must be a USDF PM.
  - b. The primary owner of record of the horse **MUST** be a current USDF PM or Business Member. If there is a current lease recorded with USDF, the lessee is recognized as “owner” for all USDF membership requirements.
  - c. The horse must be USDF Lifetime Registered.
  - d. For the Breeder of the Year Award, the breeder must be a USDF PM or BM by September 30.
9. A horse is **declared** for All-Breeds awards based on the **breed registry papers submitted to the USDF office. Effective 10/1/2009: An All-Breeds Declaration Form must accompany the papers, indicating the All-Breeds Participating Organization that the owner is declaring the horse for.** Breed registry papers **and the All-Breeds Declaration Form** must be on file with USDF by **August 1** of the award year in order to be eligible for awards during the same year. For foals: If breed papers have not **yet** been issued by the registry, a copy of a letter of verification from the registry to the owner **will temporarily fulfill the breed registry papers requirement above until official breed registry papers are submitted.** This letter must state that the foal is eligible for awards from that registry. **All foals without official breed papers on file by December 31 will be removed from the declaration list.** This rule does not preclude, eliminate, or interfere with members pursuing awards recognition, or multiple registrations, outside the USDF program.
10. **Effective October 1, 2009: An owner of record may change the declaration of his/her horse to another registry with which the horse has breed registry papers by submitting an All-Breeds Declaration Form, appropriate breed registry papers, and a \$50 declaration change fee to the USDF office by August 1 of the current competition year.**
11. For Rider Performance Awards: Information on rider/owner/horse eligibility for specific year-end or multiple-year award programs is available on the USDF Web site or in the *USDF Directory*.
12. The USDF competition year ends September 30. This date will not be adjusted for any reason.

13. The current competition year horse and rider score checks are available on the USDF Web site free of charge through November 30 of the same calendar year, after which scores will only be available via a lifetime score check.
14. The replacement cost for a rider award medal, rider award bar, or an All-Breeds medal is \$25. The replacement cost for any award certificate is \$10. The replacement cost for a rider award patch is \$10.

## **VII. EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **A. DUTIES**

1. The EB must establish and oversee councils and committees on an ongoing basis that support the mission of USDF. The EB must eliminate councils and committees that have served their purpose and are no longer needed. The president shall establish all standing, temporary, ad hoc, implementation or other councils/committees and appoint annually a chairperson for each council/committee, subject to the approval of the EB.
2. The president must describe, upon appointment, the responsibilities for ad hoc, temporary and implementation committees, as well as task forces.
3. The president may designate, with the approval of the EB, an official “contact” for the organization in a specific area that does not require the direct involvement of a committee or council. The contact is responsible for providing information to USDF on a particular subject.
4. Members of the USDF EB may not chair a council or standing committee. However, EB members may chair ad hoc, special or implementation committees, and task forces. Board members may not serve as regional coordinators but may serve on any other committee.
5. A member of the EB may attend any closed council/committee meeting.
6. The EB must approve the appointment of sponsors to councils/committees for which they either have previously provided sponsorship or are currently providing sponsorship.
7. All consultant financial relationships must be approved in advance by the EB.
8. The EB must review budgets and expenditures in order to ensure sound fiscal management of USDF assets and continued financial solvency of USDF.
9. The EB must provide ongoing support to the executive director.
10. The EB must review reports submitted by the Management Committee.
11. Biannually, the EB must review each council/committee’s mission, goals, objectives, accomplishments, and actions.
12. The EB must develop and implement an EB Policy on councils/committees, and biannually, review programs for compliance with this policy.
13. The EB will elect two EB members to serve on the Bylaws Committee.

14. The EB will appoint a member of the EB to serve on the Instructor Certification Program Steering Committee for a two-year, renewable term.
15. The EB will appoint a non-vested member to serve on the Instructor Certification Program Steering Committee for a two-year, renewable term.

## **B. PROPOSALS**

1. The EB must review and approve all proposals submitted to the EB. In particular, the board must review and approve requests for significant actions, such as major capital expenditures (over \$7,500), major changes in programs/events and major membership services changes. Contracts over \$7,500 must be approved, in advance, and signed by both the president and executive director. (See Ch. III. Financial, Section A)
2. The EB must forward appropriate proposals (including those proposed by councils and committees) to the Board of Governors as necessary, or as prescribed in USDF Bylaws.
3. A subcommittee appointed by the president, and approved by the EB, will review new and revised programs and projects that are approved by either the BOG or EB, in order to determine an appropriate implementation plan.

## **C. GUIDELINES FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

1. The EB must represent the interests of the BOG on the USDF EB.
2. The EB must make decisions to enhance USDF's mission and for the benefit of the membership as a whole.
3. The EB must attend all board meetings and conference calls, and participate in electronic correspondence and voting.
4. The EB must arrive at meetings prepared, having read supporting material, ready to engage in thoughtful discussion.
5. The EB must actively participate in discussion.
6. The EB must encourage and respect the input of all board members.
7. The EB must promote board unity and confidence.
8. An EB member must inform the board if he/she feels that an issue presents a conflict of interest for any board member. Board members should not participate in discussion where there is a conflict of interest.
9. The EB must recognize that the president is the official spokesperson for the EB.
10. The EB must keep sensitive EB information confidential. The need for confidentiality shall be as determined by a majority of the board or as directed by the president.
11. The EB must enhance USDF's public image.
12. The EB must encourage membership in USDF.

13. The EB must respond promptly to USDF-related correspondence and telephone calls.
14. The EB must identify members with leadership ability as future board members or council/committee chairs.

#### **D. MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATION**

1. The USDF Spring Executive Board meeting will be as close as possible to the first weekend in May.
2. Any written request for EB action must allow two weeks for the response from the postmark date, or seven days if sent by e-mail or fax. If the executive director or president sends a letter to the EB requesting a decision, and if two or more EB members object to the procedure, an extension must be granted for the board to communicate and have ample time to respond. Results and comments from mail, e-mail or fax ballots will be furnished to the EB.
3. Minutes should be drafted by the secretary *or assigned USDF staff* as soon as possible after the meeting and reviewed by the president *and secretary*. Ideally, this should occur within ten days of the meeting. After *any correction* to the minutes, the draft is submitted to the members *of the EB for approval*. Minutes may be approved via e-mail or at the next scheduled meeting. *The approved minutes shall be published on the USDF Web site within 45 days of the meeting.*
4. Minutes will be prepared to include the following information and in the following format: Major points should be covered as well as dissenting views. Confidential or sensitive items may be recorded separately and circulated separately only with the approval of the president. EB members and guests present will be listed first, along with those members absent. "Excused" may be used for a member whose absence is unavoidable. When actions and votes are taken, the minutes must be clear as to the action and the actual vote. For example: It was moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that [description of motion]. Motion carried (unanimously, 8-2) or Motion defeated (2-8), etc. The number of abstaining votes should also be listed. At the member's request, the name of any abstaining or opposing member should be listed.
5. Persons invited in a consultant or advisory capacity may not vote. Invited guests may speak only at the request of the president.
6. The minutes of any telephonic meeting must reflect that a meeting was held electronically.
7. Meetings may be tape-recorded, at the request of the secretary, for assistance in preparation of the minutes.

#### **E. REIMBURSEMENT**

1. Officers attending the annual convention will be reimbursed USDF-related expenses as follows: USDF will pay for convention registration, coach airfare or driving reimbursement, hotel for the duration of the convention, and any submitted expenses not to exceed \$30 a day.
2. Regional directors attending the annual convention will receive convention registration and will be reimbursed up to \$750 for USDF-related expenses.
3. EB members attending the spring EB meeting will be reimbursed travel and hotel costs. USDF will pay travel and hotel costs to the spring EB meeting for the immediate past president for one year. An information and reservation form is provided for each board member, which covers flight and hotel arrangements. The form addresses specific travel and hotel arrangements, and must be submitted to the USDF office prior to travel.

- a. Flight Arrangements: USDF will pay for a coach fare round trip airline ticket. If flight arrangements are made by board members, it is recommended that flights are booked at least fourteen days in advance for a good rate.
  - b. Driving reimbursement: USDF will pay the applicable IRS business rate per mile for round trip mileage.
  - c. Hotel Arrangements: USDF will pay for all hotel room nights for the EB members during the spring Executive Board meeting.
4. Effective April 1, 2006: Any request for reimbursement must be made within the same fiscal year that the expense occurred. It is preferred that the request be made within 30 days of the occurrence.

## **F. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

1. The USDF EB will have a Management Committee consisting of the four elected officers and one regional director who will be chosen by all of the regional directors.
2. The purposes of the committee are:
  - a. Coordinate with the executive director to:
    - i. Encourage implementation of good human resources policies for USDF office staff.
    - ii. Ensure that the financial operations of USDF are properly administered.
    - iii. Establish the executive director's annual objectives for the USDF office.
  - b. Provide adequate supervision, ongoing support, and guidance to the executive director.
  - c. Conduct the annual performance appraisal of the executive director, using established evaluation criteria.
  - d. Determine the compensation of the executive director, which recognizes meeting or exceeding the performance goals and objectives set by the EB.
  - e. Inform the EB of all actions of the Management Committee.
  - f. Perform USDF work assigned by the EB.
  - g. The Management Committee of the EB will manage the National Education Endowment Fund. (See Ch. III. Financial, Section A.12)
3. The regional director serving on the committee shall be chosen every two years by all regional directors at the spring Executive Board meeting.
4. No regional director shall serve on the Management Committee for more than two consecutive two-year terms. In order to be selected, a director should receive a minimum of three votes. If this does not occur, the president will appoint a regional director. If a director does not complete a full two-year term because he/she is no longer a regional director or asks to be relieved for personal reasons, the president will appoint a regional director to fill the term until the next spring Executive Board meeting.

## **G. REGIONAL DIRECTORS**

1. Regional coordinator appointments must be made as soon as possible after the convention and no later than January 1. Staff liaisons should be notified by January 1 of coordinator appointments.

2. Regional director reports should be received by the USDF office 30 days prior to EB and BOG meetings.
3. Regional director phone, postage and duplicating expenses will be reimbursed for regional and EB business as appropriate, upon submission of documentation or receipts.

#### **H. MISCELLANEOUS**

1. Monthly staff reports and quarterly financial reports will be sent from the USDF office to the EB.

### **VIII. COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES**

#### **A. DUTIES**

1. Advise the EB and/or BOG on the relevant matters.
2. Present resolutions for action on policy and/or implementation of policy to the relevant council/committee, EB and/or BOG.
3. Recommend programs and projects to the EB and BOG within established policies and budget.
4. Assist the staff liaison in preparing an annual budget for the committee or council, including identifying revenue sources and estimating expenses (including administrative expenses) for programs and projects planned for the next fiscal year.
5. In accordance with USDF Bylaws and Policies, review proposed changes to programs and projects under the jurisdiction of the council/committee, make recommendations for changes, and perform such other duties as may be specified by the council/committee goals and objectives, or as may be directed by the EB.
6. Unless specifically stated in USDF Bylaws and/or Policies, councils and committees may take no action to commit USDF to any business or contractual relationship, nor make policy. Councils and committees act in an advisory capacity to the EB and BOG.

#### **B. GENERAL COUNCIL/COMMITTEE POLICIES**

1. The president shall establish all USDF councils/committees subject to the approval of the EB. A council is composed of a chairman and regional coordinators and may have additional members. A committee is composed of a chairman and designated committee members.
2. Ad hoc committees, special committees or task forces are special committees established and appointed by the president, and approved by the EB, for a designated purpose, normally unmet by other committees or to supplement the work of other committees. Ad hoc committees do not have permanent status. An expiration date may be stated at the time of appointment if other than an annual appointment. Such committees report to the president and EB.
3. Implementation committees may be established from time to time by the EB for a specific purpose. Such a committee must be appointed to investigate and recommend procedures for implementing new USDF programs. These committees may be considered temporary or they may be expected to supervise and review the procedures for their programs on an ongoing basis.

4. Subcommittees may be appointed by council/committee chairs, as needed, or may be appointed by the president, and approved by the EB. Subcommittees are accountable to the entity that made the appointment.
5. When a council/committee creates a subcommittee, the chair of the council/committee will appoint the subcommittee chair with the approval of the EB.
6. All chairs, regional coordinators and committee members are appointed on an annual basis from January 1 to December 31. All appointed individuals shall tender their resignations to the president at the USDF Annual Convention. These resignations shall be effective December 31. There are no limits for chairs, coordinators or committee members in the number of years they may be reappointed.
7. Committee members, regional coordinators, and other appointed individuals, must be either GMs, IMs or PMs, in good standing, of USDF. Council/committee chairs must be PMs in good standing. Ex-officio, honorary or advisory members are not required to be USDF members.
8. Councils and committees are assisted by staff liaisons, assigned by the executive director. Staff liaisons are responsible for recording meeting proceedings and producing minutes for approval of the chair and council/committee members, in a timely fashion. The staff liaison also works with the chair in preparing and monitoring the council/committee budget and maintains communications in support of the council/committee's needs. The liaison furthers the business of the council/committee within approved guidelines and policies, and serves as the link between the council/committee and the executive director. The liaison should be copied on e-mails and other forms of written communication (faxes or letters).
9. According to USDF policy, committee members can be removed by the chair with or without cause.
10. A regional coordinator must live or work in the region that he/she represents at least 50 percent of the year.
11. USDF membership is not required for committee or council advisors (such as USEF staff). It is recommended that no more than two advisors be appointed for a council or committee. The USDF Executive Director has the authority to appoint staff liaisons and staff advisors to councils and committees as he/she sees fit. Staff liaisons and advisors serve in a non-voting capacity.
12. With prior approval of the president and/or executive director, a chair may invite special consultants to serve the technical needs of the council or committee in a non-voting capacity. Prior approval must be obtained even if no expense or financial relationship is involved.
13. Appointments for coordinator and committee positions should be made with care and must be made as soon as possible after the convention, and no later than January 1. Staff liaisons should be notified by January 1 of council/committee appointments.
14. Councils and committees MUST have a wide, equitable, geographic distribution of members.
15. Individuals who are appointed to councils and committees must have experience in and/or a special interest in the work of the council/committee and be willing to serve USDF. Regardless of their membership in other organizations, their service is intended to enhance the best interests of USDF.

16. After regional coordinators and appointed committee members have accepted the invitation to serve, a letter will go out from the USDF office confirming the appointments. The letter will include the council/committee agenda and Board of Governors report from the last convention.
17. Resignations from a USDF council or committee, prior to the end of the year, should be submitted to the regional director (for council coordinators) or the chair (for members of a committee) with a copy to the staff liaison. Vacancies during the year should be filled by the person or entity that made the original appointment. However, vacancies received on or after September 1 may remain unfilled for the remainder of the year at the discretion of the person or entity who made the original appointment.
18. Chairs, regional coordinators, committee members and appointees are required to comply with the USDF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy in all USDF work. They must publicly disclose any actual or perceived conflict of interest and shall not vote on such council/committee matters. However, only the Audit, and certain other board-designated council/committees, will be required to annually sign and submit affirmation and disclosure statements in compliance with the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy. In addition, chairs, coordinators and committee members must agree not to use information obtained in council or committee meetings and correspondence outside their council or committee without specific permission of the chair and council/committee liaison.
19. Chairs, regional coordinators and committee members are also required to act in good faith and in accordance with what they believe to be in the best interest of USDF. They should discharge their responsibilities in a timely fashion without delegating such responsibilities to other volunteers or staff.
20. Attendance and active participation in meetings by regional coordinators and committee members is expected. Coordinators and committee members are expected to attend the USDF Annual Convention, and to participate in teleconferences and correspondence throughout the year.
21. Each council/committee reports to and addresses issues to the BOG for approval at the annual convention. Issues arising between meetings of the BOG must be addressed to the EB for discussion and approval.
22. The official spokesperson for a council or committee is its chair. With the chair's permission, another council/committee member can speak on the council or committee's behalf in meetings and to the BOG and/or EB. Issues also may be addressed to the EB through the council/committee liaison. Statements made on behalf of a council or committee may not be made without prior communication with the chair.
23. Communication from the chair or council/committee member to USDF staff should normally be through the staff liaison unless a previously established understanding is in place with the permission of the executive director.
24. Internal communications regarding council/committee business are not to be copied to organizations or individuals outside of USDF or to corporate sponsors without the approval of the president or executive director **except as provided by these Policies and Procedures in Article II, Section E.**
25. If a committee or council wishes to submit any material for publication, it must receive prior approval of the executive director. Web sites or other publications (i.e. online forums, publications, listserves, newsletters) representing a committee or council must be done through or with prior approval by the USDF Executive Director or the EB **except as provided by these Policies and Procedures in Article II, Section E.**

26. When a staff member creates editorial material for placement in *USDF Connection* that reflects content material under the jurisdiction of a council or committee, that editorial must be approved by the council or committee chair before it is submitted to the editorial staff.
27. When council/committee chair or a staff member, acting on behalf of a council or committee, creates editorial material for placement in publications or web sites outside of USDF that reflect content material under the umbrella of a USDF official communication, that material must first be approved by the executive director **except as provided by these Policies and Procedures in Article II, Section E.**
28. Written communication on council/committee business should clearly indicate who has originated the communication.
29. When a program, project or publication is budgeted for a particular council or committee, the council/committee must include support for the activity in their planned activities for the year.
30. Each council and committee is required to have a mission statement, goals and annual objectives that fall within the parameters of the overall USDF mission. Any proposed changes to the mission and goals of the council/committee **MUST** be approved in advance by the USDF EB and BOG (if such changes are requested at the convention). Annual objectives must be designed to include what the council/committee can accomplish during the year, within the parameters of the approved budget for the council/committee. The staff liaison cannot be expected to complete unfinished work that was not completed on schedule by the council/committee.
31. If a council or committee wishes to formulate a resolution concerning policy, it is directed to the EB or BOG for consideration and possible action. No policy resolution may be presented to the BOG without review of the EB and other affected council/committees.
32. The council/committee chair is responsible for submitting a written report on the council or committee's activities, concerns, problems or development to the USDF office for both the spring and fall Executive Board meetings by the deadline established by the EB. Program/project proposals or requests for changes must be submitted with these reports.
33. The EB directs all council and committee chairs to (1) prioritize funding requests, and (2) assure that the necessary support is available to accomplish the goals for the planned projects in the coming year.

### **C. MEETINGS**

1. Meetings will be held as necessary and at least once each year at the USDF Annual Convention. A quorum must be assured in order to conduct business and vote. Meeting notices may be sent by mail, fax and/or by e-mail. The president and executive director must be notified of all meetings.
2. One-half of the voting members of a committee or council constitute a quorum for voting purposes.
3. All meetings will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.
4. Except with EB permission, only one closed meeting may be held at the USDF Annual Convention. At least one open council/committee meeting must be held at the convention.
5. At least ten days notice is required for a meeting unless a majority of members agree to a time for the meeting that is within ten days of the meeting scheduling request.
6. The minutes of any telephonic meeting must reflect that a meeting was held electronically.

7. Meetings may be tape-recorded, at the request of the chair, for assistance in preparation of the meetings.
8. Minutes should be drafted, by the staff liaison, as soon as possible after the meeting and reviewed by the chair prior to circulation. Ideally, this should occur within ten days of the meeting. After **any correction** to the minutes, the draft is submitted to the members **of the committee for approval**. Minutes may be approved via e-mail or at the next scheduled meeting. **The approved minutes shall be published on the USDF Web site within 45 days of the meeting.**
9. Minutes will be prepared as an executive summary. Major points should be covered as well as dissenting views. Confidential or sensitive items may be recorded separately and circulated separately only with the approval of the executive director. Members and guests present will be listed first, along with those members absent. "Excused" may be used for a member whose absence is unavoidable. When actions and votes are taken, the minutes must be clear as to the action and the actual vote. For example: It was moved by \_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_ that ..... Motion carried (unanimously, 8-2) or Motion defeated (2-8), etc. The number of abstaining votes should also be listed. At the member's request, the names of any abstaining or opposing member should be listed.
10. It is most important that the chair, with assistance of the staff liaison, develops a preliminary agenda that is circulated to all members as soon as possible before the meeting. Meetings that are not properly noticed to all members may be invalid, and become a source of controversy or confusion.
11. Emergency meetings may be held as long as all members are notified prior to the meeting, provided with an agenda, and given a chance to participate.
12. Duly appointed council/committee members are entitled to vote. Staff members, including the liaison, and staff advisors, may not vote. The chair need not vote except to break or cause ties.
13. Voting members with a vested interest, or a conflict of interest, in an agenda item are expected to declare that interest, offer to abstain, and absent themselves from the vote.
14. Persons invited in a consultant or advisory capacity may not vote. Invited guests may speak only at the request of the chair or council/committee member.
15. Alternates or proxy votes are not permitted in council/committee votes.
16. A member of the EB may attend any closed council/committee meeting.

## **D. LIST OF USDF COUNCILS AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **1. Councils**

- a. Adult Education
- b. FEI Junior/Young Riders
- c. Awards
- d. Competition Management
- e. Competitors
- f. Group Member Organization
- g. Instructors/Trainers
- h. Youth
- i. Nominating
- j. Technical Delegates

## 2. Standing Committees

- k. Audit
- l. Bylaws
- m. ParaEquestrian Dressage
- n. Freestyle
- o. Historical
- p. Intercollegiate/Interscholastic
- q. Judges
- r. Membership
- s. Regional Championships
- t. Sport Horse
- u. USDF/USEF Young Rider Graduate Program

## IX. PROGRAMS

### A. PARTICIPATION

1. There may be a program registration fee for USDF programs held at a local level, which require USDF administrative assistance. Youth Regional Team Competitions are exempted. (See Ch. III. Financial, Section D)
2. Any individual in arrears on fees or dues to USDF, its regions, or GMOs may not participate in USDF programs. USDF must be notified if an individual is in arrears to a region or GMO and will determine if the nature of the delinquency constitutes a violation of this policy. (See Ch. III. Financial, Section A)
3. Any USDF member suspended by USEF will be considered a USDF member not in good standing during the period of USEF suspension. During this period, such a person will be ineligible to participate in USDF programs, including having his/her name removed from the list of Certified instructors, Instructor Workshop faculty, Instructor Certification examiners, and “L” Program faculty. (See Bylaws Art. V., Section 1)
4. Participating membership (in good standing) **with** USDF is required for participation in several USDF programs, including:
  - a. Participants in Instructor Certification Workshops and Pre-certifications
  - b. Instructor Certification Testing Candidates
  - c. Certification Examiners
  - d. Certified Instructors (non-renewal of membership will result in removal of Instructor’s name from all USDF lists for any period of lapsed membership.)
  - e. USDF Judge’s Forum participants (excluding those forums specifically required to maintain USEF Judges license)
  - f. “L” Education Program – **Part 2**
  - g. Faculty for “L” Education Program
  - h. Graduates of the “L” Education Program (non-renewal of membership will result in removal of graduate’s name from all USDF lists for any period of lapsed membership)
  - i. Dressage participants representing the US in the North American Junior Championship (NAJC) or North American Young Riders Championship (NAYRC).
  - j. USDF/USEF Young Rider Graduate Program
5. USDF Certified Instructors are required to pay an annual fee and complete the program’s continuing education requirement in order to be considered active USDF Certified Instructors and receive Certified Instructor benefits. Failure to pay the annual fee and complete the program’s continuing education requirement may result in omission of names of USDF Certified Instructors

from USDF publications listing Certified Instructors, including the USDF Web site and *USDF Directory*.

## **B. REQUIREMENTS**

1. USDF Sanctioned Programs:
  - a. Permission to advertise a clinic, forum, competition or other dressage program as USDF "sanctioned" must be applied for in writing directly to USDF.
  - b. The application should identify the sponsoring organization, principal organizer(s), and name, address, and telephone number of an authorized contact person. An outline of the proposed dressage program's purpose, schedule and budget should accompany the application, along with any other pertinent information.
  - c. A GMO, IMO, USDF Region, USDF council/committee or other USDF-approved organization must be designated as the sponsoring organization of a USDF sanctioned program.
  - d. All USDF sanctioned programs should be structured to be financially self-supporting. All individuals or organizations other than the sponsoring organization that may benefit financially (or in any other material way) from the proceeds of the event must be identified in the application. A complete financial report is to be submitted to USDF within a designated time of the program's end, for programs receiving direct financial support from USDF. Specific financial reporting requirements will be listed in the application criteria for each program.
  - e. A nominal fee may be charged for USDF sanctioned program organizer guidelines that are available free of charge on the USDF Web site.
  - f. All USDF sanctioned programs and competitions are required to carry at least \$1 million insurance liability coverage, which cites USDF as an "additional insured". Proof of insurance must be provided to USDF at least two weeks prior to the program, or as mandated by the program guidelines.
2. Programs voted on and approved by the BOG will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the EB to determine an appropriate implementation plan. (See Ch. IX. Programs, Section D)
3. USDF sanctioned programs which have been approved and accepted by the BOG, and designed to be organized at the regional or local level, should be allowed to be undertaken in any region by USDF GMOs, or by members with the approval of the regional director and the appropriate regional coordinator or committee chair. This policy does not apply to USDF administered national programs.

## **C. LIST OF USDF PROGRAMS**

1. Councils and committees should produce, and update as needed, guidelines for the conduct of USDF programs. For information on USDF activities, projects or programs, see the current guidelines which are posted on the USDF Web site. USDF programs include:
2. USDF Administered Programs:
  - a. Awards
  - b. Trainers Conferences (National and FEI)
  - c. USDF National Symposium
  - d. Qualifying and Selection Criteria for NAJC and NAYRC
  - e. Dressage Technical Delegate Apprentice Program
  - f. FEI Junior/Young Rider Clinic Series
  - g. USDF Adult Clinics
  - h. Judge Seminars
  - i. USDF Certified Instructor Testings

- j. Young Rider Graduate Program
- k. Arts Contest
- l. Youth Convention Scholarship Program
- m. Dover Medal Program
- n. USDF nomination to the USEF Youth Sportsman's Award

3. USDF Competitions:

- a. USDF Regional Dressage Championships
- b. USDFBC Series
- c. USDF Youth Regional Team Competitions
- d. USDF Adult Regional Team Competitions

4. USDF Sanctioned Programs hosted by regions, GMOs or other organizations for which USDF provides guidelines:

- a. Sport Horse Seminars
- b. Sport Horse Handler's Clinics
- c. Instructor Workshops
- d. Pre-Certification Clinics
- e. "L" Education Program
- f. USDF Continuing Education Program for Judges and USDF "L" Graduates
- g. USDF University

5. USDF Programs, not-sanctioned, hosted by regions, GMOs or other organizations for which USDF provides guidelines, but which are not USDF sanctioned:

- a. Shining Star Program
- b. *Adult/Youth Camps***
- c. *High School Club Pin Program***

#### **D. USDF EXECUTIVE BOARD POLICY ON PROGRAM PROPOSALS**

1. Council/committee programs or projects should be designed to meet the mission of USDF and the mission and goals of the respective council or committee.
2. All council/committee proposals for new projects or programs, or revisions to current programs, must have the input and recommendation of the council/committee. Council/committee minutes must reflect approval by a quorum of the council/committee, after review of the proposal and a draft budget.
3. All council/committee proposals for new projects or programs, or revisions to current programs, must include a budget to identify revenue sources, estimated expenses (including administrative expenses), and a suggested time line for implementing the program or completing the project.
4. Council/committee programs and projects should be designed to utilize GMOs, if appropriate, and volunteers to the fullest extent possible.
5. All council/committee proposals for new programs and projects, or revisions to current programs, must be submitted to the EB for approval through the respective chair or staff coordinator/liaison for the council or committee that will be responsible for the program or project.
6. Council/committee program and project proposals or revisions, where budgeted expenses may exceed revenues, should demonstrate that the benefits justify the cost, and must receive approval from the BOG.

7. New and revised programs and projects that are approved either by the BOG or EB will be reviewed by an implementation committee appointed by the president, and approved by the EB, to determine an appropriate implementation plan. The implementation process for a new program or project may take up to one year after the program was initially approved. The Implementation Committee should have from five to seven members, including members of the EB, the staff coordinator for the program/ project, and members of the council or committee responsible for the program/project.
8. In cases where the Implementation Committee determines that the program or project cannot be implemented in its original form, due to excessive costs or other factors, a revised format for the program or project must be recommended to and reviewed by the EB. Final approval of any changes to the originally approved format must be presented for approval to the board (either EB or BOG) that originally approved the program.

## **X. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

USDF has three boards. The thirteen member EB is made up of nine regional directors and four officers. The officers are elected by the delegates to the BOG, and the regional directors are elected by the delegates in their respective regions. The Youth Executive Board (YEB) is elected by Jr/YR (Youth) USDF members within their respective regions. The BOG consists of elected PM delegates, as well as GMO and IMO delegates.

### **A. NOMINATIONS**

[See Bylaws Article XI]

1. Nominations for PM delegates
  - a. All nominations for PM delegates to the BOG are to be submitted to the USDF office by April 15.
  - b. The nominee must confirm that he/she understands that his/her expenses will not be paid by USDF funds.
2. Nomination of officers and regional directors
  - a. The Nominating Council MUST receive nominations from the membership and shall, when necessary, nominate individuals for office.
  - b. The council will prepare a list of candidates for each office.
  - c. Nominations for officers and regional directors MUST be sent to the Nominating Council by June 1, to be listed on the slate of nominees before the annual convention. Nominations should be sent first to the appropriate regional coordinator for the Nominating Council, then to the Nominating Council chair, then to the USDF staff liaison for the Nominating Council. Candidates may be nominated from the floor of the BOG at the annual convention.
  - d. In all cases, consent of the nominee must be obtained prior to submission of his/her name to the Nominating Council.
  - e. The Nominating Council will inform the membership via e-mail or other means of communication about USDF Officer and Regional Director nominations as soon as a nomination is accepted by a candidate.
  - f. No person may accept a nomination as a candidate for more than one office at the same time. The nominee must decide for which office he/she will run prior to publication of the proposed list. Publication of the list will occur at least 60 days in advance of voting by the BOG.

- g. The person submitting the nomination to the council will include a brief biography for each nominee. This biography will give education, experience and general information on the proposed candidate.
- h. The biographies, a photograph, and the candidate's responses to questions (provided by the Nominating Council) will be published in *USDF Connection* in conjunction with the proposed list of candidates.

### 3. Nomination of YEB members

- a. The Nominating Council MUST receive nominations from the membership (any USDF member) by April 15.
- b. The council will prepare a list of candidates for each region.
- c. Nominees under the age of 18 must obtain the signature of their parent or guardian on the nomination acceptance form.
- d. YEB members must be at least 14 years of age to be nominated. Effective January 1, 2005: In order to be eligible for nomination to the YEB, members must be at least 14 years of age, at the time of nomination, and no older than 20 years of age on December 31 of the year of the election.

## B. ELECTIONS

[See Bylaws Article XI and XII]

### 1. Election of PM delegates

- a. PM delegates shall be elected each year.
- b. A ballot is mailed to each PM by June 1.
- c. All ballots must be **cast** within 30 days of the mailing of said ballots (the return date).
- d. Any ballots **cast** after the return date shall be discarded.
- e. Ballots shall be counted by the Canvassing Committee within 30 days after the return date of the election. (See Bylaws, Art. XI for information on Canvassing Committee.)
- f. All defaced ballots will be voided. Defaced ballots are those that are partially destroyed, illegible or otherwise unclear.
- g. ***For the purposes of Section B.1., Election of PM delegates, the following definitions shall apply:***
  - 1. ***Mail or Mailing – shall mean any form of distribution, physical or electronic.***
  - 2. ***Return Date – shall mean the date by which votes must be received by the USDF in either physical or electronic form.***
  - 3. ***Ballot – shall include a physical or electronic form.***
  - 4. ***Cast – a ballot is cast when it is received by the USDF in either a physical or electronic form.***

### 2. Election of officers and regional directors

- a. Written notice of the nominees shall be submitted to the known delegates to the BOG at least 60 days prior to the applicable election date.
- b. The Nominating Council shall announce the slate of candidates each day of the BOG meeting and accept any nominations from the floor.
- c. A short campaign speech by each nominee to the office of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer shall be allowed on the second day of the meeting.
- d. Voting for the offices of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer and/or regional directors will take place on the final day of the annual meeting of the BOG.
- e. The following procedures shall be used with confidential online voting (to be used in place of secret paper ballots):
  - i. An appropriate number of computer voting kiosks will be available in the BOG meeting room.

- ii. All voting delegates will receive a confidential voting PIN number prior to the start of the first BOG meeting.
- iii. Delegates will be instructed at the appropriate time to approach the voting kiosks and log in their vote(s).
- iv. The software will be programmed as to know each PM, GM and IM delegate's appropriate voting rights based on the PIN number(s) assigned to them. The software will not allow any PIN number to be used more than one time per voting question.
- v. Each delegate will enter their PIN number in a login screen, which will either take them to the ballot or indicate if they have already placed their vote.
- vi. Each delegate will select their choices from the ballot screen and click submit, at which point the program will record their vote into the database and will return to the PIN login screen for the next delegate.
- f. Any candidate running unopposed shall be elected by acclamation.
- g. Officers and regional directors shall be elected every third year on a rotating basis. [Bylaws, Article XII, Section 1 – 2]

### 3. Election of YEB members

- a. YEB members shall be elected for two-year terms on a rotating basis between odd-numbered regions (1, 3, 5, 7 & 9) and even-numbered regions (2, 4, 6 & 8).
- b. A ballot is mailed to each (Youth) Jr/Young Rider by June 1 of the election year.
- c. The return date must be at least 30 days after mailing the ballot.
- d. All ballots must be **cast** by the return date. Any ballots **cast** after the return date shall be discarded.
- e. Ballots shall be counted by the Canvassing Committee within 30 days after the return date of the election.
- f. One candidate shall be elected from each region.
- g. All defaced ballots will be voided. (See Section B.1f, above, for the definition of a defaced ballot.)
- h. Election of YEB officers shall take place at the end of the closed meeting held during the annual convention.
- i. The YEB term shall begin with the first day of the annual convention.
- j. ***For the purposes of Section 3.B., Election of YEB members, the following definitions shall apply:***
  - 1. ***Mail or Mailing – shall mean any form of distribution, physical or electronic.***
  - 2. ***Return Date – shall mean the date by which votes must be received by the USDF in either physical or electronic form.***
  - 3. ***Ballot – shall include a physical or electronic form.***
  - 4. ***Cast – a ballot is cast when it is received by the USDF in either a physical or electronic form.***

### 4. Recall/Resignation of YEB members

- a. Any member of the YEB may be recalled and removed from his/her position on the YEB in the following manner:
- b. A written recall petition signed by two-thirds of the YEB members, and approved in writing by the president of the YEB, shall be presented to the USDF EB. The recall petition shall be sent to the member sought to be recalled, who shall have 30 days to file a written response with the respective regional director. After said 30 day period, and upon approval of the recall petition by the regional director, the regional director, after approval by the USDF President, shall appoint a successor to the recalled member, who shall serve the balance of the term.

- c. The YEB must provide written warning to any member that is being considered for recall at least 30 days prior to the filing of a recall petition.
- d. If a board member becomes ineligible to serve, (i.e., fails to remain a participating member), then the YEB President shall give that member written notice of said ineligibility, and shall also notify the USDF EB and respective regional director, and a replacement will then be appointed by the regional director after approval by the USDF President. Upon the resignation of any YEB member, his/her replacement will be appointed by the regional director after approval by the USDF President.
- e. If a member requests an extended absence, the YEB will vote by majority to determine if the absence will be granted, or if the member will be replaced. Request for extended absences must be presented to the USDF Youth Council liaison in written form.
- f. In the event that a YEB member must be replaced, the president of the YEB will contact the Youth Council chairperson, the respective regional director, and the USDF Youth Council liaison. The regional director will recommend a replacement and the USDF Youth Council liaison will then contact the USDF President concerning this issue. The USDF President may confer with the USDF Executive Board Management Committee. The USDF President will then approve said replacement recommendation or contact the appropriate regional director and request an alternative replacement recommendation.
- g. The bylaws for the YEB are superseded by USDF Bylaws and USDF Policies and Procedures.

### C. GMO and IMO DELEGATES

1. Each year after the USDF annual convention, the Nominating Council will send a letter to all GMOs and IMOs that did not respond to delegate assignment requests made prior to the convention, to inform them that they were not represented at the BOG meeting.

## XI. MARKETING

### A. GENERAL

1. No person or organization shall be permitted to use the USDF logo, word mark, title or signage without written permission from the USDF Director of Marketing or Executive Director.
2. Press releases will be sent to hometown newspapers for USDF Horse of the Year Awards First through fifth place, based on information supplied by the recipient.
3. A disclaimer will be placed in the *USDF Connection* Calendar of Events (USDF University Accredited Programs) to clarify that USDF grants USDF University status to programs for their educational content only, and that USDF has no control over the organization conducting the event.
4. ***Effective 12/01/09:*** USDF PMs, GMs, IMs and Business Members will be eligible to receive a discount on USDF merchandise, provided that a USDF number is given on the order form. (Some exclusions may apply.)

### B. SPONSORSHIP

1. Direct sponsorship solicitation by a council/committee or region, for a USDF program, must have prior approval of the USDF Marketing Director and Executive Director. (See. Ch. II. General, Section A)

2. Solicitation of sponsors at the regional level:
  - a. All correspondence concerning the potential sponsorship shall be communicated with the regional director.
  - b. The regional director shall contact the potential sponsor directly, or shall appoint a person to serve as a regional representative to contact the sponsor.
  - c. Sponsorship cannot conflict with strategic USDF Corporate Agreements. USDF Corporate Agreements are contracts with current USDF sponsors.
  - d. Approval from USDF Marketing Director and Executive Director must be obtained prior to final solicitation of a potential sponsorship in the name of a USDF Region or Program.
  - e. All sponsorship funds shall be recorded as a deposit in the USDF Regional Account in accordance with the USDF Policy for Solicitation of Funds by regions, councils and committees. (See Ch. III. Financial, Section H)
3. Solicitation of sponsors at the council or committee level
  - a. All correspondence with or about a potential sponsor shall be communicated with the chair of the council or committee.
  - b. The chair shall contact the USDF liaison and keep them informed of all communications with the potential sponsor.
  - c. Sponsorship cannot conflict with strategic USDF Corporate Agreements.
  - d. The liaison shall contact the USDF Marketing Director regarding the potential sponsorship.
  - e. The USDF Marketing Director will contact the potential sponsor directly for further discussions.
  - f. The USDF Marketing Director will keep council or committee chair informed on all progress and communication with potential sponsor.
  - g. USDF staff will be responsible for negotiating all agreements or contracts affecting national sponsors.

## C. PUBLICATIONS

1. The *USDF Connection* is the official publication of USDF.
2. The *USDF Directory* is an annual publication containing USEF tests, FEI tests, USDF Freestyle and Introductory tests, complete USDF Awards information, and a directory of Judges, "L" Program Graduates, Dressage Technical Delegates and Certified Instructors who are USDF PMs. A complimentary copy of the *USDF Directory* will be sent to all PMs, Business Members and each GMO president and secretary **for a shipping and handling fee**. Additional copies will be available for purchase.
3. Other USDF communications include the USDF Web site, Regional Newsletters and Competition Contact.
4. All USDF publications shall be monitored and regulated by the executive director.
5. The subscription to *USDF Connection* is based upon the effective date of an individual's membership. The member will receive the first issue of *USDF Connection* approximately two months after the membership has been processed and will continue to receive *USDF Connection* two months after their membership has expired. If a member does not inform USDF of a change of address, USDF is not responsible for issues that the member does not receive.

## D. LIST RENTAL POLICY

1. The USDF membership list is available for rent by USDF Business Members and GMOs.

2. Lists will be sent electronically to the client's designated mailing house.
3. USDF must receive a signed list rental contract, a copy of the piece to be mailed and prepayment before the list is sent out. Upon review of the piece, USDF has the right of refusal.
4. Each region may use the USDF member list one time each year, at no charge, with approval of the regional director and the executive director.

## **E. ADVERTISING POLICY**

[Also see the current Advertising Rate Card]

1. Advertisements are accepted for the *USDF Connection, Directory, Yearbook* and most other USDF publications.
2. A finance charge of 1.5 percent per month on credit balances over 30 days will be assessed and subsequent ads will not be run if previous ad is not paid within 60 days of invoice.
3. See the current USDF advertising rate card for contract, copy specifications, commissions and rates.
4. Regional newsletters may include products and services advertisements.
  - a. Regional newsletters may not, according to postal regulations, contain advertisements for credit, debit, or charge cards. Advertisements for insurance companies and travel agencies must have prior approval from USDF Marketing Director.
  - b. Each region is responsible for collecting and remitting funds to USDF. 100 percent of advertising proceeds will be deposited in the region's USDF bank account.
  - c. Due to postal regulations, advertising space should be limited to approximately 35 percent of total newsletter space.
  - d. Advertising rates will be determined by the region.

## **F. COPYRIGHT PROCEDURES**

1. USDF materials shall be copyright protected. This includes all tests, pamphlets and brochures. If a GMO, region or retail business wishes to reproduce and/or use any of this copyright protected material, permission must be first granted by USDF. The procedure for gaining permission is as follows:
  - a. Submit a request in writing to the USDF Marketing Department. The request must include how the materials are to be used.
  - b. Retail sales product must include the price of the product, how the product will be marketed and how the product will be packaged.
  - c. Upon submission of a request, the GMO/regional contact will receive a USDF contract for signature, followed by the appropriate materials requested.
  - d. All GMO/regional contracts are valid through the end of the current calendar year and must be renewed each year.
  - e. If the product is for resale purposes, a contract will be created around the specific product. Generally there is a fee for the copyright usage and a royalty percentage based on the product.
  - f. Any foreign federation that wishes to use any of the copyrighted materials for educational or competitive purposes must seek approval from USDF. A contract will be created for the specific use of the materials. Approval may include a usage fee and/or a royalty percentage.

## **G. PROCEDURE FOR VIDEO/ELECTRONIC IMAGING PROJECTS**

1. The following procedures should be followed for all USDF video/electronic imaging projects, both for retail purposes and for USDF council/committee or office use. The USDF Marketing Department can work with the council/committee to develop the proposal, budget and timeline. The department can also provide the council/committee with the appropriate forms and information necessary for the project.
  - a. All video/electronic imaging projects are to be coordinated with the USDF Marketing Department. Any video/electronic image that may be sold through the USDF store should work with the USDF Marketing Department for marketing and price information.
  - b. A proposal must be submitted to the USDF Marketing Department. This proposal should include an outline of the content and intended use of the video/electronic image and its targeted market.
  - c. A budget for the project, along with supporting documentation, must be presented to the USDF Finance and Accounting Department for evaluation. This budget should include initial duplication costs, jacket production and packaging for the first production run of the video/electronic image.
  - d. The project should include three bids from video/electronic image production companies.
  - e. Musical videos/electronic images must address musical rights prior to the start of the project. The USDF Marketing Department can assist in obtaining musical rights.
  - f. The proposed project budget and supporting documentation will then be presented to the EB for approval.
  - g. Releases must be obtained from all riders and horse owners that are to be used in the project.
2. Imaging, video, or audio recording of USDF clinics, events and programs is only permitted for private or personal use by the riders actually participating in that USDF clinic, event or program. No image, video, or audio recording is permitted by the general audience. No image, video, or audio recording of USDF clinics, events and programs may be sold or distributed in any form by any entity or individual without prior express written consent of USDF.

## **H. LICENSING AND BRANDING OF PRODUCTS**

1. USDF will not engage in the practice of licensing the use of its name, or logo for the purpose of branding products produced and distributed by entities other than USDF.
2. USDF will not directly endorse a product where that product is considered a dressage product, produced and distributed by entities other than USDF.
3. USDF will allow the use of its name and/or logo by sponsors and strategic partners in the context of a contractual relationship such as with an official sponsor or official supplier of USDF, or for a USDF program.
  - a. Examples of appropriate usage include: sponsor advertising, hang tag and product packaging.
  - b. All such usage and treatments must be approved by the USDF Director of Marketing and the USDF Executive Director.

**XII. DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION**

<u>Type of Document</u>	<u>Minimum Requirement</u>
Accounts payable ledgers and schedules	7 years
Audit reports	Permanently
Bank reconciliations	2 years
Bank statements	3 years
Checks (for important payments and purchases)	Permanently
Contracts, mortgages, notes and leases (expired)	7 years
Contracts still in effect	Permanently
Correspondence (general)	2 years
Correspondence (legal and important matters)	Permanently
Correspondence (with customers and vendors)	2 years
Deeds, mortgages, and bills of sale	Permanently
Depreciation schedules	Permanently
Duplicate deposit slips	2 years
Employment applications	3 years
Expense analyses/expense distribution schedules	7 years
Year end financial statements	Permanently
Insurance Policies (expired)	3 years
Insurance records, current accident reports, claims, policies, etc...	Permanently
Internal audit reports	3 years
Inventories of products, materials and supplies	7 years
Invoices (to customers, from vendors)	7 years
Minute books, bylaws and charter	Permanently
Patents and related papers	Permanently
Payroll records and summaries	7 years
Personnel files (terminated employees)	7 years
Retirement and pension records	Permanently
Tax returns and worksheets	Permanently
Timesheets	7 years
Trademark registrations and copyrights	Permanently
Withholding tax statements	7 years

This schedule has been adopted from the National Council of Nonprofit Associations in order to be in compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

## **XIII. UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION, INC. CODE OF ETHICS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

### **ARTICLE I PURPOSE AND INTRODUCTION**

Both the volunteers and the staff of the United States Dressage Federation (“USDF” or the “Corporation”) have an important responsibility to maintain a high standard of ethical behavior when conducting the affairs of the Corporation. A primary purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect the interest of the “Corporation” when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of a director, voting delegate, council or committee member, or employee of the Corporation.

Furthermore, because the appearance of impropriety can be just as damaging as actual impropriety, conduct, which appears to be improper, also is unacceptable. (See definitions below.) Accordingly, volunteers, and staff are required to comply with the following USDF Code of Ethics when representing or participating in USDF activities or events:

1. Conduct all dealings with honesty and fairness.
2. Respect the rights of all employees to fair treatment and equal opportunity, free from discrimination or harassment of any type.
3. Know, understand and comply with the laws, regulations, and codes of conduct governing the conduct of USDF competitions and business.
4. Ensure that all transactions are handled honestly and recorded accurately.
5. Protect the confidentiality of information that belongs to the Corporation, our donors, sponsors, suppliers, fellow volunteers and staff.
6. Respect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature.
7. Avoid conflicts of interest, both real and perceived.
8. Never use Corporation assets or information for personal gain.
9. Recognize that even the appearance of misconduct or impropriety can be very damaging to the reputation of the Corporation and act accordingly.

**This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable corporations.**

### **ARTICLE II DEFINITIONS**

#### **1. INTERESTED PERSON**

Any director, voting delegate, council or committee member, or staff member, who has a direct or indirect financial, material or personal interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

#### **2. FAMILY**

USDF defines “family” for these purposes as follows: spouse, parent, child or spouse of a child, brother, sister, spouse of a brother or sister, a cohabiting companion, or any other individual with a significant familial or familial-like relationship.

### 3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

USDF defines a conflict of interest as any personal or financial (both direct and indirect) relationship including relationships of family members (see definition above) that could influence or be perceived to influence an interested person's objectivity when representing or conducting business for, or on behalf of, USDF. USDF defines a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest as whenever others may reasonably infer from the circumstances that a conflict exists.

### 4. FINANCIAL INTEREST

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment or family:

- a. an ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Corporation has a transaction or arrangement, or
- b. For staff: a compensation arrangement with any entity or individual with which the Corporation has a transaction or arrangement, or
- c. For volunteers: a compensation arrangement with the Corporation or with any entity or individual with which the Corporation has a transaction or arrangement, or
- d. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Corporation is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are substantial in nature.

### 5. INAPPROPRIATE HOSPITALITY OR GIFT GIVING

USDF defines inappropriate hospitality as the offering or receiving of accommodations, event tickets, entertainment, meals or other similar personal benefits except as specifically provided for by applicable policies. Inappropriate hospitality or gift giving between individuals can also create a conflict of interest. Similarly, USDF prohibits the receipt or giving of personal gifts except for items of nominal value such as hats, pins, etc. unless specifically provided for by applicable policies.

## **ARTICLE III PROCEDURES**

### 1. DUTY TO DISCLOSE

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence and nature of his or her financial or other interest to the appropriate USDF entity considering the proposed transaction or arrangement. Because the appearance of impropriety can be just as damaging as actual impropriety, conduct that appears to be improper must be disclosed so that the appropriate USDF entity may determine whether such substantial appearance of a conflict is deemed to be a prohibited conflict of interest.

### 2. DETERMINING WHETHER A CONFLICT OF INTEREST EXISTS

After disclosure of a financial or material interest, the interested person shall leave any board, council, committee or staff meeting while the financial or material interest is discussed and voted upon. An interested party also must abstain from voting and from seeking to influence the vote on

any matter related to the person or concern if the relationship is not approved. An individual must recuse himself/herself from participating in a USDF activity giving rise to a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest unless and until it is deemed by the appropriate USDF entity that no conflict exists. In the case of volunteers, the remaining board, council or committee members, or where appropriate, the EB, shall decide if a conflict of interest exists. In the case of staff, the executive director shall determine if a conflict of interest exists.

This code serves as a framework for ethical conduct but does not cover every situation. If you are unclear about the requirements of this code, please consult the president or executive director of the Corporation.

### 3. PROCEDURES FOR ADDRESSING A FINANCIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- a. After exercising due diligence, the board, council or committee shall determine whether the Corporation can obtain a more advantageous transaction or arrangement with reasonable efforts from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
- b. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably attainable under circumstances that would not give rise to a conflict of interest, the board, council or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors or members whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Corporation's best interest and for its own benefit and whether the transaction is fair and reasonable to the Corporation and shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement in conformity with such determination.

### 4. VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF ETHICS OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

- a. Any person who violates or condones the violation of the Code of Ethics is subject to disciplinary measures, which may include termination of membership, employment, and expulsion from the board, council or committee.
- b. If the board, council, committee or staff director has reasonable cause to believe that a member or employee has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, the appropriate entity shall inform the member or employee of the basis for such belief and afford the individual an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- c. If, after hearing the response of the member or employee and making such further investigation as may be warranted in the circumstances, the board, council, committee or staff director determines that the member or employee has in fact failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, the appropriate entity shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

## **ARTICLE IV RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS**

The minutes of the board and all councils or committees shall contain:

- a. the names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the board's, council's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed, and

- b. the names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection therewith.

## **ARTICLE V COMPENSATION COMMITTEES**

A voting member of any council or committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Corporation for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to member's compensation.

## **ARTICLE VI ANNUAL STATEMENTS**

Each EB member, Audit Committee member, other board-designated council or committee member, and staff who holds a director or liaison position, shall annually, at the time of the annual convention, sign a Disclosure and Affirmation Statement and a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement which affirms that such person:

- a. has received a copy of the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest policy,
- b. has read and understands the policy,
- c. has agreed to comply with the policy,
- d. understands that the Corporation is a charitable organization and that in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes, and
- e. has disclosed financial, business or personal relationships, positions, or circumstances which may present an actual or perceived conflict of interest with the Corporation.

Other council or committee members, voting delegates or employees of the Corporation are not required to complete a Disclosure and Affirmation Statement or a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement, however, all such individuals are required to read and otherwise comply with this Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest policy, and to abstain from voting and from seeking to influence a vote or decision on any matter related to an actual or perceived conflict.

After acceptance of any volunteer or staff position with the Corporation, compliance with this code of ethics and conflict of interest policy is expected regardless of the timely filing of required affirmation or disclosure statements.

## **ARTICLE VII PERIODIC REVIEWS**

To ensure that the Corporation operates in a manner consistent with its charitable purposes and that it does not engage in activities that would jeopardize its status as an organization exempt from federal income tax, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- a. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable and the result of arm's-length bargaining.
- b. Whether agreements with employees and third party payers further the Corporation's charitable purposes and do not result in inurement or impermissible private benefit.

#### **ARTICLE VIII USE OF OUTSIDE EXPERTS**

In conducting the periodic reviews provided for in Article VII, the Corporation may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the board of its responsibility for ensuring that periodic reviews are conducted.

#### **ARTICLE IX STAFF EMPLOYMENT OR VOLUNTEER SERVICES OUTSIDE OF USDF**

In addition to the stipulations listed above which are pertinent to staff, staff members have additional responsibilities to the Corporation when contemplating entering into a paid or volunteer position associated with a USDF-recognized competition or activity, or USDF-related business. Employees must sign a USDF Employee Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement yearly and abide by the conflict of interest guidelines described in the USDF Employee Handbook.

**CHAPTER XIV. USDF YOUTH EXECUTIVE BOARD BYLAWS****ARTICLE I****NAME**

The name of the board shall be the United States Dressage Federation Youth Executive Board (YEB), which shall be considered to be part of USDF.

**ARTICLE II****PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

Section 1. The purpose of the YEB is to represent the thoughts, opinions, and needs of youth in each region and convey them to the USDF EB and the Board of Governors for motion and action.

Section 2. The objectives for the YEB shall be:

- a) To improve communication between the regional directors, coordinators and the youth members in each region.
- b) To improve communication between youth in each region in an effort to help them be more aware of youth activities.

**ARTICLE III****STRUCTURE**

Section 1. **Regions**  
Each USDF Region, as described in USDF Policies and Procedures (Ch. I, Section A), shall elect a YEB member as provided for in these bylaws and in USDF Policies and Procedures (Ch. X, Sections A.3 and B.3-B.4). Each YEB member shall serve according to the terms established by these bylaws.

Section 2. Except for those matters expressly addressed in USDF YEB Bylaws, all USDF bylaws and policies governing USDF councils and committees shall apply to activities and actions of the USDF YEB.

Section 3. The bylaws for the YEB cannot supersede USDF Bylaws and USDF Policies and Procedures.

**ARTICLE IV****MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Each person who campaigns for or is elected to the YEB shall be a current USDF PM in good standing.

Section 2. **Length of Membership**

- a) Membership must remain in effect and in good standing from the time the member is elected until the term expires.
- b) In the event the PM of a YEB member expires, and is not renewed within 30 days, that YEB member will be sent written notice of ineligibility by the YEB President. The YEB member will be replaced by an eligible PM appointed by the regional director of the replaced member's region, after approval by the USDF President, in accordance with the process described in Ch. X, Section B.4 of USDF Policies and Procedures.

- Section 3. Membership Eligibility.
- a) Nomination of YEB members shall be in accordance with USDF Policies and Procedures (Ch. X, Section A.3)
  - b) Each youth member who campaigns for, or is elected to the YEB shall be a current PM of USDF in good standing.
  - c) Effective January 1, 2005: In order to be eligible for nomination to the YEB, members must be at least 14 years of age, at the time of nomination, and no older than 20 years of age on December 31 of the year of the election.
  - d) Nominees under the age of 18 must obtain the signature of their parent or guardian on the nomination acceptance form.

## ARTICLE V

### YOUTH EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

- Section 1: The YEB shall consist of one elected member per USDF Region. Each member shall be elected by ballot vote in each region as described in Ch. X, Section B.3 of USDF Policies and Procedures. The immediate past president, Youth Council chairperson and USDF Youth Council liaison shall sit as advisors on the YEB, but shall not have a vote and shall not be considered when determining a quorum.
- Section 2. The president or vice president of the YEB shall preside at all meetings of the board, and all minutes shall be the responsibility of the secretary of the YEB. If both the president and vice president are absent from the meeting, the remaining members shall elect a chairman to preside at that meeting.
- Section 3.
- (a) The YEB members shall serve a two-year term, which shall begin on the first day of the first annual convention following the election.
  - (b) Current, new, and out-going members of the YEB are required to attend the annual convention.
  - (c) Only current and new members may vote during a meeting of the YEB.
- Section 4. One-half of the voting members of the YEB shall constitute a quorum for transacting business and voting at any meetings of the YEB; provided that if less than one-half of the members are present at said meeting, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice. (See USDF Policies and Procedures Ch. VIII, Section C.)
- Section 5. The act of a simple majority of the members of the YEB at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the YEB.
- Section 6. The board may vote on issues by fax, e-mail or regular mail, or conference call, but any issue will be deferred until the next live meeting if any member so requests.
- Section 7. Except as described in Sections 1-6, above, all requirements for meetings as described in Ch. VIII, Section C of USDF Policies and Procedures shall apply.

**ARTICLE VI****GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Members Shall:

- Section 1. Communicate quarterly, specifically mid February, mid May, mid August, and mid November, with their respective regional director and regional youth coordinator and submit a verbal report to the YEB at the following month's conference call. Communications should include a review of activities and progress of communications with youth members.
- Section 2. Be responsible for submitting the appropriate number of articles, bulletins and reports to the *USDF Connection* magazine as determined by the YEB.
- Section 3. Establish a communications network within each region and its various GMOs that encourages interaction among riders under the age of 22 years. The YEB members shall be accessible and approachable to their constituents and attend or participate in regional competitions and activities, especially those that pertain to youth members. The YEB will then work cohesively to create a national network of communication though e-mail and monthly conference calls.
- Section 4. Attend the Adequan/USDF Annual Convention at which, the YEB will review its progress and policies and discuss goals, objectives, accomplishments, and actions, as well as hold elections for officers. The president of the YEB will formally introduce all of the members of the YEB to the USDF Board of Governors. Current, outgoing and incoming members are required to attend the convention.

**ARTICLE VII****OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Section 1: President
- a) Shall preside at the YEB meetings held at the annual convention and at regular meetings.
  - b) May, at any time, call a meeting of the YEB, in accordance with applicable meeting notice requirements in USDF Policies and Procedures and USDF Bylaws.
  - c) Shall approve the agenda prior to the YEB meetings held at the annual convention and prior to regular meetings.
  - d) Shall carry out such other duties as assigned by the YEB or USDF EB.
- Section 2: Vice President
- a) In the absence of the president, the vice president shall exercise any power or duty of the president.
  - b) Shall carry out such other duties as may be assigned by the president.
  - c) Shall send out meeting notices to YEB members.
- Section 3: Secretary
- a) Shall review the agenda prior to distribution for all meetings.
  - b) Shall provide written minutes of all meetings and provide a report of the minutes to all YEB members within ten days of the meeting.
  - c) Shall carry out other such duties as may be assigned by the president.

**ARTICLE VIII****ELECTIONS**

## Section 1:

- a) YEB members shall be elected for two-year terms on a rotating basis between odd-numbered regions (1, 3, 5, and 9) and even-numbered regions (2, 4, 6 and 8). Prior to April 1 of the second year of his/her respective two-year term, each member is requested to submit the name(s) of one or more eligible Youth PMs who may be interested in running for election to the YEB.
- b) A ballot is mailed to each youth member by June 1 of the election year.
- c) The return date must be at least 30 days after mailing the ballot.
- d) All ballots must be **cast** by the return date.
- e) Any ballots **cast** after the return date shall be discarded.
- f) Ballots shall be counted by the Canvassing Committee within 30 days after the return date of the election.
- g) One candidate shall be elected from each region.
- h) All defaced ballots will be voided. (See Ch. X, Section B.1f for the definition of a defaced ballot.)
- i) Election of YEB officers shall take place at the end of the closed meeting held during the annual convention.
- j) The YEB term shall begin with the first day of the annual convention.
- k) *For the purposes of Chapter XIV, USDF Youth Executive Board Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 1, the following definitions shall apply:***
  - 1. *Mail or Mailing – shall mean any form of distribution, physical or electronic.***
  - 2. *Return Date – shall mean the date by which votes must be received by the USDF in either physical or electronic form.***
  - 3. *Ballot – shall include a physical or electronic form.***
  - 4. *Cast – a ballot is cast when it is received by the USDF in either a physical or electronic form.***

**ARTICLE IX****RECALL/RESIGNATION OF YOUTH EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

## Section 1.

Any member of the YEB may be recalled and removed from his/her position on the YEB in the following manner:

- a) A written recall petition signed by two-thirds of the YEB members, and approved in writing by the president of the YEB, shall be presented to the USDF EB. The recall petition shall be sent to the member sought to be recalled, who shall have 30 days to file a written response with the respective regional director. After said 30-day period, and upon approval of the recall petition by the regional director, the regional director, after approval by the USDF President, shall appoint a successor to the recalled member, who shall serve the balance of the term.
- b) The YEB must provide written warning to any member that is being considered for recall at least 30 days prior to the filing of a recall petition.
- c) If a YEB member becomes ineligible to serve, (i.e., fails to remain a participating member), then the YEB president shall give that member written notice of said ineligibility, and shall also notify the USDF EB and respective regional director. A replacement will then be appointed by the regional director after approval by the USDF President. Upon the resignation of any YEB member, his/her replacement will be appointed by the respective regional director after approval by the USDF President.

- d) If a member requests an extended absence, the YEB will vote by majority to determine if the absence will be granted, or if the member will be replaced. Request for extended absences must be presented to the USDF Youth Council liaison in written form. The appropriate regional director must be immediately informed of any approved requests for extended absences.

Section 2: In the event that a YEB member must be replaced, the president of the YEB will contact the Youth Council chairperson, the respective regional director and the USDF Youth Council liaison. The regional director will recommend a replacement and the USDF Youth Council liaison will then contact the USDF President concerning this issue. The USDF President may confer with the USDF Executive Board Management Committee. The USDF President will then approve said replacement recommendation or contact the appropriate regional director and request an alternative replacement recommendation.

## ARTICLE X

### MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1: USDF YEB members will receive a 50 percent discount applied to the cost of convention registration.

## **XV. USDF STATEMENT ON ANIMAL WELFARE**

The United States Dressage Federation, Inc. (USDF), a federation of over 125 independent organizations throughout the United States with a membership in excess of 33,000 members, supports the concept of ethical treatment of animals.

Dressage is a classical method of training horses, based upon the horse's natural responses, as carried out in a gradual, planned program during which the horse's athletic abilities are improved in a systematic manner. As a result, the horse becomes capable, comfortable, and responsive in partnership with the rider without the use of force. Dressage competition at various levels of achievement is the ultimate test of the training program to determine whether the desired harmony between horse and rider has been achieved.

The rules pertaining to dressage competition prohibit the use of artificial appliances, training aids, and drugs which would force the horse to submit. Instead, the emphasis is upon training and a cooperative partnership with the rider. Major competitions are carefully monitored to assure that there is no unnecessary force or harshness displayed.

Unlike other horse sports in which horses enter training at a relatively immature state, dressage training is usually not seriously begun until the horse is three or four. The top levels of achievement require five or more years of progressive training and it is not unusual to see horses in international competition in their late teens. This, in itself, places a premium on good care and soundness throughout the horse's life.

While supporting the concept of animal welfare in its broadest form, USDF, also recognizes that it is unrealistic to ascribe human emotions and responses to the horse which in its wild state is a creature of flight, living a hard and precarious existence. Under domestication, the horse is assured of ample food, water, and shelter, as well as protection against infectious diseases and damaging parasites, thus leading a longer and healthier life with a high rate of survival.

As an educational organization, USDF has numerous programs, which teach people how to pursue the accepted, humane training methods. A program of certifying instructors also emphasizes protecting the horse's welfare in pursuit of dressage training.

(See Ch. VI. Competitions, Section A)

## **XVI. USDF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE**

USDF is committed to good sportsmanship and developing a high standard of knowledge and skill in dressage. USDF members are encouraged to:

1. Conduct themselves in an ethical, fair and sportsmanlike manner, and take responsibility for their actions while training and competing.
2. Treat competitors, instructors, competition management, officials and employees with respect and dignity.
3. Respect the integrity and judgment of equine caregivers and horse owners.
4. Observe and respect the rules, regulations and authority of the sports organizations that sanction each activity and competition.
5. Promote the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
6. Protect the welfare of the horse during competition and in training.
7. Demonstrate proper preparation, training and fitness of horse and rider for the level at which they are competing.
8. Observe the highest standard of nutrition, healthcare and safety in the care of horses.